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THE INDEPENDENT

FRIDAY 7 AUGUST 1998

(IR50p) 45p

IN THE NEWS SECTION



England put to the Test

WITH 7 PAGES OF SPORT

IN THE BROADSHEET REVIEW



Britain's most deadly drug

REVIEW FRONT



Denied justice by a play on words

MUSIC, LAW & ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

The day all America watched and waited. And waited...

BY MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

THIS WAS the day that all America had been waiting for, even if all America preferred not to admit it.

Monica Lewinsky, the 25-year-old Californian who spent a year of her life as a trainee at the White House, appeared before a Washington grand jury to account for her relationship with the President.

Ms Lewinsky, dressed in a sharp blue suit, flanked by lawyers and advisers, was barely visible in the crush of reporters and hardware: just the top of her hair, the seam of the suit, and she was gone. It was 8.40 in the morning, the temperature in the eighties, an almost cloudless sky, the familiar silhouette of the US Capitol in the background.

There was the glitz and press of Oscar night, the dread fascination of a mass-murder trial, and a sense of history - debased, perhaps eventually trivial history, but history none the less. Monica Lewinsky, whose voice has still not been heard, had pledged through her lawyers to tell "truthfully and

INSIDE

White House struggles to keep cool; Ten questions for Monica
Page 12

fully" about her relationship with Bill Clinton.

Not a word emerged all day about what she was saying. Her testimony, like that of other grand-jury witnesses, must remain confidential unless she chose otherwise.

The ubiquitous "sources" that have relayed all that is known of Ms Lewinsky's comportment, predicted embarrassment and tears, and graphic details. They repeated the terms of the plea bargain that freed her from the threat of prosecution in return for her evidence - terms that are still only hearsay.

She was expected to contradict her own sworn statement of six months ago and admit a sexual relationship with the President, so setting her version at odds with the

President's. She would recount, the sources said, how they discussed keeping the affair secret. She would confirm the details of her conversations with her colleague, Linda Tripp, which Ms Tripp secretly recorded. She would confirm that the President sent her presents. She would confirm that "that dress" - the dark-blue dress from Gap which may or may not be stained with semen - was hers, and that she kept it, by accident or design, from investigators for six months.

In Washington yesterday there was only one story in town, and Ms Lewinsky's appearance behind the closed doors of the Washington court house was it. President Clinton meanwhile pursued his programme rigorously, as scheduled, with speeches on gun control and Indian rights.

White House spokesmen also stressed that Mr Clinton would continue with travel plans next week - to California and the Midwest as planned, a three-day absence from Washington that was seen by reporters in the Capitol as an attempt to escape their attention and reach a more sym-



Monica Lewinsky arriving at court in Washington to testify before the grand jury about her relationship with President Bill Clinton. AFP

pathetic public. Mainstream commentators lamented that the institution of the presidency should be brought so low and invoked, in high-flown terms, the deplorable moral relativity of the baby-boom generation, epitomised by Bill Clinton. Could it really be that the last presidency of the 20th

century should end in DNA evidence culled from the stain on a girl's dress? From the provinces, though, came reports of more distaste than interest and the feeling that a sexual peccadillo should not be allowed to tell a president.

Americans who might decide Mr Clinton's political fate were conspicuous by their absence. One woman, a visitor from Kentucky, had left her hotel on a whim with a banner emblazoned: "Mothers for Monica". "Good luck, Monica" said another. But this was a media event, not an occasion for mass

lobbying. Polls say the public backs the President: by two to one they approve of the job he is doing and they do not want him to leave office. Asked what they think about his relationship with Ms Lewinsky, they say they do not care. But television news ratings are up when the Lewinsky affair is

discussed; radio talkshows - regarded as the bell-wether of grassroots opinion - languish when they divert from the obvious. "All anyone wants to talk about is sex," said one host. Yesterday one was talking Iraq yesterday, they were talking Ms Lewinsky - and mostly with a smile.

Labour 'glove puppets' put Tories in a spin

LABOUR MPS were dismissed by the Tories as "Alastair Campbell's glove puppets" last night, after a Commons committee was split by a dispute over government spin-doctors.

Opposition members on the Public Administration Committee produced a minority report after critical references to the Prime Minister's press secretary were erased from the official version. One passage that was removed compared his style with that of Margaret Thatcher's press secretary, Bernard Ingham.

The breakaway report called for Labour to pay its own political spin-doctors, for tighter procedures on semi-official leaks and for tapes of lobby briefings to be kept for a year.

However, the official document said the committee had seen no evidence that Mr Campbell was unfair in his treatment of the press. It called for a new code of conduct on

BY FRAN ABRAMS Political Correspondent

contacts between ministers, special advisers and the press.

David Ruffley, the Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds and a former special adviser to Kenneth Clarke, suggested the Labour MPs who toned down references to Mr Campbell had been ordered to do so.

"The behaviour of the Labour members is a disgrace. They have been nobbled by their party whips. They are nothing more than Alastair Campbell's glove puppets," he said.

Mr Campbell had probably ordered the publication of the report during the summer holidays, he added.

"This stitch-up and this cover-up will be seen through and we will be asking for more evidence," he said.

The Conservatives also claimed that the proposed code



of conduct would give Mr Campbell more power because it would order ministers and advisers to work closely with him.

Fraser Kemp, a Labour member of the committee who worked as a party press officer before becoming MP for Houghton and Washington East last year, denied that whips had asked anyone to water down the report.

"I find it a bit rich to hear talk about disgraceful subversion of Parliament and the leaking of

reports, given what we have read in the press this week. There's a touch of hypocrisy about that," he said, referring to publicity about the committee's disagreement.

Rhodri Morgan, the committee chairman and Labour MP for Cardiff West, said that he very much wished he had been able to find a solution to the dispute.

"It's a matter of some sadness and some concern that we do have a split report," he said.

"When you have a highly sensitive party political issue then the elastic which holds select committees together, the natural solidarity of committees, gets pulled the other way by party political loyalties."

The committee's disagreement was the first since Labour came to power to end in a minority report being published.

Toned down report, page 8
Leading article, Review, page 3

'Beckham factor' could spark violence, say police

POLICE CHIEFS have upgraded security plans for matches involving Manchester United, fearing that the "Beckham factor" could spark violence between rival fans.

Police believe that opposing supporters directing abuse at the players, whom some blame for England's elimination from the World Cup, could be a trigger for violence at Manchester United games in the new football season, which begins this weekend.

The Independent has learnt that the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) has already received intelligence that hooligan gangs linked to Arsenal and Manchester United are planning violent clashes this weekend as the teams meet at Wembley for the Charity Shield, the traditional opening fixture. Although the planned rivalry is linked to intense rivalry between fans of England's current most suc-

BY IAN BURRELL Home Affairs Correspondent

cessful sides, and is likely to occur away from Wembley stadium, police fear the Beckham factor could also spark clashes inside the stadium on Sunday.

Bryan Drew, head of strategic and specialist intelligence at NCIS, said: "The Beckham factor could provide a trigger to it. It depends on how the Man Utd supporters react to try and defend him."

Police are also concerned about United's early-season league fixtures, particularly the away game at West Ham later this month, and games at Arsenal and at home to Liverpool, next month.

Mr Drew issued his warning as NCIS released figures showing that arrest rates at league matches in England and Wales had fallen by nearly 15 per cent to their lowest level on record. In the Premiership, the number



Beckham fans' taunts could provoke violence

for violent offences had gone up. There were increased arrests for assault, violent disorder, running on the pitch, racial and indecent chanting, and throwing missiles.

Many of the problems were in the First Division which recorded more "inside ground" arrests than the Premiership. This was partially due to the record attendance levels in the First Division last season, but was also attributable to poorer quality stewarding and security arrangements.

Yesterday, the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, announced a change in the law to allow stiffer sentences to be given to known hooligans who abused restriction orders designed to prevent them attending matches. The maximum penalty for breaching such orders has been raised from one month's imprisonment and a £1,000 fine to six months' imprisonment and a £5,000 fine.

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Michelle de Bruin, the Irish Olympic gold medal swimmer, has been banned for four years
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Overcast in the North, but should see a sign of PIMM'S in the South.



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Millions 'drive over drink limit'

More than 2 million people drive while over the alcohol limit, according to new research. Page 6

Bishop attacks 'Islamification'

The Bishop of Edinburgh said the debate on homosexuality at the Lambeth Conference showed how "Islamified" the Anglican Church had become. Page 10

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Chinese floods near crisis point

Water levels in the Yangtze river are rising to emergency heights as a new flood crest heads toward the most dangerous section of the main embankment. Page 14

Bulgarian ex-leader Zhivkov dies

Todor Zhivkov, the last surviving strongman of the Soviet Union's eastern European empire, died on Wednesday night at the age of 86. Page 15

BUSINESS NEWS

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Barclays shares fall on results

Shares in Barclays slipped 3 per cent after the bank announced a lacklustre set of first half results. Page 16

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Arsenal sign Argentina's Vivas

Arsenal have signed the Argentinian World Cup player Nelson Vivas from Boca Juniors for an undisclosed fee. Page 23

FRIDAY REVIEW

20-PAGE BROADSHEET SECTION

Phillip Knightley

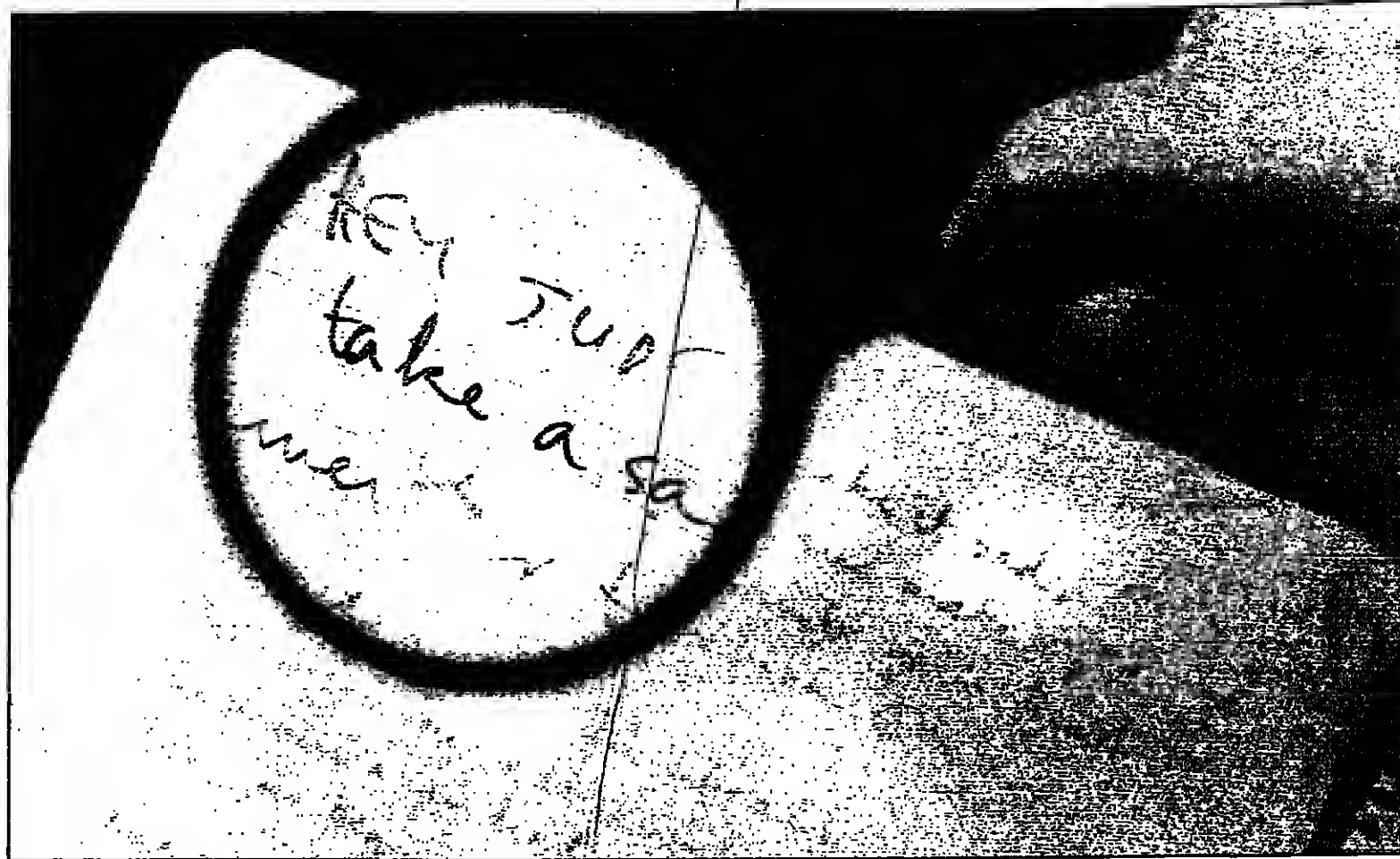
The mess cannot be cured by tinkering with the fringes. We have to sweep away the whole culture of secrecy that began in 1909. Page 4

Patrick Cockburn

In effect, sanctions laid Iraq under economic siege of a kind not seen before outside warfare. Page 5

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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the material for this newspaper in the first half of 1998.

A notebook in which Paul McCartney drafted lyrics for 'Hey Jude' and 'Sgt Pepper' being examined by a member of staff at Sotheby's in London yesterday. The notebook is the centrepiece of a rock'n'roll memorabilia sale next month and is expected to fetch around £90,000. Paul Hackett

Field attacks plans to extend means testing

THE SIMMERING row over the Government's welfare reforms erupted again last night when former social security minister, Frank Field, launched a searing attack on the Chancellor's plans to extend means testing.

Mr Field warned that Gordon Brown's proposal to introduce a working families' tax credit to help the poor would lead to a "spider's web of dishonesty and corruption".

The MP who resigned from his post last week, claiming his own reforms had been blocked by Harriet Harman, said the proposals would result in employers and employees colluding to perpetrate benefit fraud. Addressing the Social Market Foundation in London last

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

night, he claimed Mr Brown's idea of replacing family credit with the new scheme was "fraught with great dangers".

The most immediate danger was large scale fraud, as employers could persuade staff that they would be entitled to the new benefit if they accepted low wages. The whole idea was a "fraud-determined minimum wage", he said.

"It offers huge bonuses for dishonesty. It strengthens employers' hold over working people - these are the conditions, cheat and both of us will be better off". It thereby pulls employees into a spider's web of

dishonesty and corruption. It also rewards employers paying low wages and takes pressure off improving productivity."

The speech, which also attacked the Government's refusal to introduce compulsory pensions savings for those in work, re-ignited the controversy, just as ministers hoped it had died down. His decision to quit the Government sparked a week of mud-slinging, which saw him described as a "failed joke" by party officials and his ideas ridiculed by fellow ministers.

He, in turn, described the spin doctors who had attacked him as a "cancer" that ate away at the heart of Government. Mr Field told the meeting that the primary reason he

had returned to the back benches was to campaign against the means-tested policies currently backed by the Government.

He said means testing was "the big divide" in the debate on welfare reform and the Chancellor's current plans relied too heavily on that policy. Means tests were a disincentive to work that penalised savings and forced people to become more dishonest about their finances. "Yet work, savings and honesty are the cornerstones around which a thriving, prosperous and decent society are built," he said.

Echoing Mrs Thatcher's approach to the welfare state, he claimed a recognition of the im-

portance of self-interest should be central to any reforms.

"The great driving force in practically all of us is self-interest. Self-interest has remained the golden thread linking together most of all human advances since time began," he said. "Blaming society or 'them out there', for instance, to the total exoneration of one's own responsibility, is as inaccurate an analysis of the causes of poverty as it is insulting to the individuals concerned."

"The role of politicians is not to deny self-interest. To do so is too dangerous for words. It is, rather, to capitalise on this great driving force in each of us," he said.

Baby died after being left in car, inquest told

A 23-MONTH-OLD girl died after being left in a car for three hours on a day when the temperature topped 70F, an inquest was told yesterday.

Martha Daniels, of Litcham, Norfolk, was found lifeless and frothing at the mouth in a car seat, the inquest in Dereham, Norfolk, heard. Her mother Sarah Daniels, 24, said she left

BY BRIAN FARMER

the girl in the car outside a house at Spore, Norfolk, in September 1997, while she completed some cleaning work.

The coroner, Oliver Frank, recorded an open verdict after hearing that doctors could find no clear cause of death. Mrs Daniels wept as she

told the hearing that she parked the car at the back of the house in Spore leaving Martha awake and strapped in her car seat in the back. She said it was not a particularly warm day and that she had wound down the driver's window to allow air into the car. She started work at around 8.30am and looked out of the window at 20-minute intervals to check on Martha. At about 9am she noticed the child had fallen asleep. She completed her work at about 11.30am and went back to the car to drive home.

Mrs Daniels said she found Martha lifeless and sweaty in the back and drove straight to her doctor's surgery in Litcham, which was about 15

minutes away. A doctor at the surgery pronounced Martha dead minutes after she arrived. A pathologist told the hearing she could not say for certain why Martha had died.

A police spokesman said there was no question of criminal proceedings being taken, but he said parents should be wary of leaving children in cars.

The Chancellor must now act swiftly to undertake a critical appraisal of both the composition of the committee and its conduct on monetary policy," he said. The Government has been firm over its decision to allow the MPC to set interest rates, saying it is the only way to end the "boom and bust" economic cycle.

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THE Premier Card

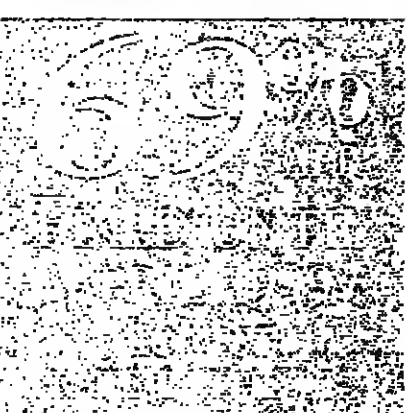


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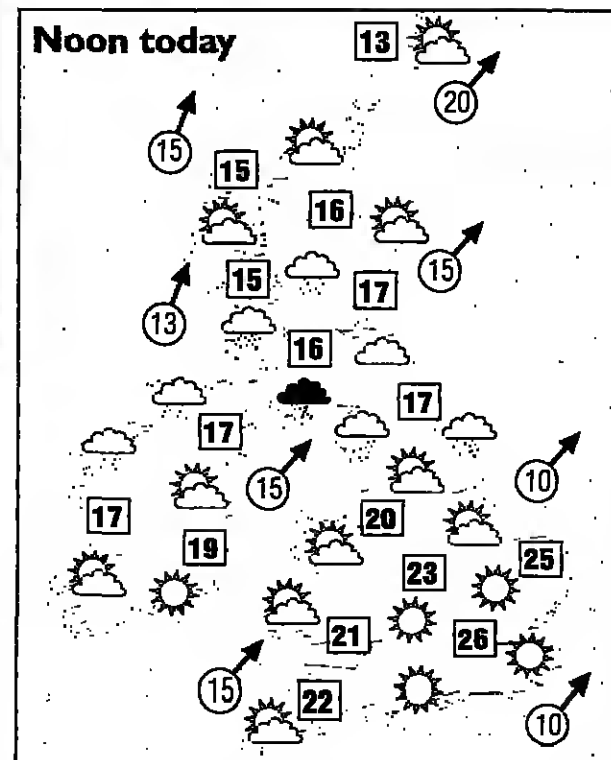
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BRITAIN TODAY



OUTLOOK

Northern Ireland and southern Scotland will be cloudy with rain, especially in the west. Northern Scotland will be quite bright, but rain is possible towards evening. The far north of Scotland will have patchy rain spreading from the west, but it should brighten up late on. North Wales and the southern half of northern England will have early hill-driizzle but hot sunshine will break through. South Wales, the Midlands, East Angles and southern England will be hot with prolonged sunshine.

NEXT FEW DAYS

England and Wales will be mostly sunny and hot over the weekend, although a weak cold front will bring a bit more cloud and a drop in temperature to western areas later on Sunday. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be much more mixed with some patchy rain, although southern areas will have some sunny spells and turn over warm. Monday will be fresher across the whole country with a few showers in the north-west.

YESTERDAY

BRITAIN ISLES WEATHER			
Most recent	Abertawe	20	66
Available figure at	Anglesey	17	63
noon local time	Armagh	18	61
	Belfast	18	64
KEY: C, Cloudy;	Birmingham	23	73
CI, Clear; F, Fair;	Blackpool	16	61
FI, Fog; H, haze;	Bournemouth	22	72
M, Mist; R, Rain;	Brighton	18	64
S, Sunny; SI, Sleet;	Bristol	18	64
Sh, Showers;	Cardiff	17	63
Sn, Snow;	Canterbury	17	63
Th, Thunder.	Cardiff	17	63
	Dover	25	77
	Dublin	18	64
	Edinburgh	18	64
	Exeter	20	68
	Glasgow	18	64
	Guernsey	17	63
	Inverness	16	64
	Isle of Man	26	79
	Jersey	18	64
	London	24	75
	Manchester	19	66
	Newcastle	18	64
	Nottingham	21	70
	Oldham	21	70
	Plymouth	21	69
	Scarborough	19	66
	Sheffield	26	79
	Southampton	23	73
	Stirling	18	64
	Swansea	18	64
	Torquay	25	77

LIGHTING UP TIMES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
Belfast	21.13	to	05.46	
Birmingham	20.49	to	05.38	
Bristol	20.48	to	05.44	
Glasgow	21.12	to	05.34	
London	20.39	to	05.35	
Manchester	20.54	to	05.36	
Newcastle	20.57	to	05.27	

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
London	01.54	6.5	14.16	6.8
Liverpool	11.34	8.9	23.53	9.3
Avonmouth	07.25	12.5	19.48	13.1
Hull (River Ouse)	06.32	8.2	19.02	8.2
Greenock	12.58	3.1	-	-
Dun Laoghaire	12.00	3.7	00.07	4.0

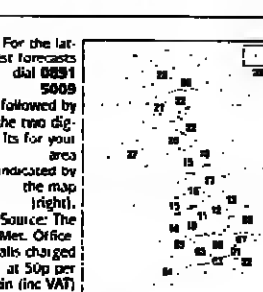
AIR QUALITY

Today's readings			
	NO ₂	PM ₁₀	O ₃
London	Mod	Mod	Good
Wales	Mod	Mod	Mod
N. England	Good	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good	Good
N. Ireland	Good	Good	Good

SUN & MOON

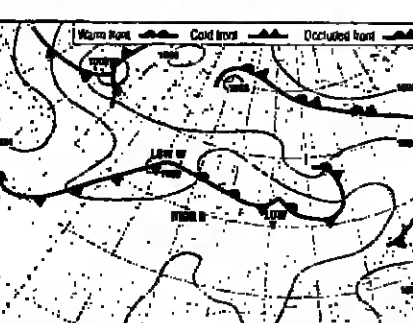
Sun rises:	05.33
Sun sets:	20.39
Moon rises:	20.13
Moon sets:	04.43
Full Moon:	August 8th

WEATHERLINE



THE WORLD

ATLANTIC CHART, NOON TODAY



Low W will move east and deepen. Low V will fill. High A will move over central Europe whilst maintaining central pressure.

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Algeria	32	90	Lima	18	64
Alexandria	33	91	Lisbon	32	90
Algiers	31	88	Liverpool	27	77
Amman	31	88	Los Angeles	26	73
Amsterdam	22	72	London	24	74
Ankara	13	55	Lyons	22	70
Athens	37	99	Madrid	33	91
Auckland	16	61	Malaga	29	86
Bahia	45	108	Manchester	28	84
Bangkok	32	99	Mantua	33	91
Barbados	28	88	Maracaibo	31	88
Batavia	29	84	Matanzas	9	48
Beirut	30	86	Medan City	22	71
Bombay	32	92	Mexico City	31	85
Buenos Aires	20	68	Miami	29	84
Burkina Faso	30	86	Mombasa	30	86
Burundi	22	72	Moscow	28	80
Bogota	17	63	Munich	23	72
Brazzaville	31	88	Nairobi	23	73
Brisbane	26	79	Nagasaki	23	72
Buenos Aires	20	70	Nassau	30	86
Burkina Faso	30	86	Nepal	30	89
Burundi	22	72	New Delhi	33	91
Bogota	17	63	New Orleans	31	88
Brazzaville	31	88	New York	32	82
Brisbane	26	79	Nice	29	84
Buenos Aires	20	68	Norfolk	29	84
Burkina Faso	30	86	Norwich	34	93
Burundi	22	72	Norwich	18	64
Bogota	17	63	Osaka	26	79
Brazzaville	31	88	Osaka	32	90
Brisbane	26	79	Palermo	27	77
Buenos Aires	20	68	Paris	26	79
Burkina Faso	30	86	Perth	26	79
Burundi	22	72	Philadelphia	33	91
Bogota	17	63	Phoenix	22	72
Brazzaville	31	88	Pinar del Rio	27	77
Brisbane	26	79	Puerto Rico	30	86
Buenos Aires	20	68	Rangoon	28	84
Burkina Faso	30	86	Rangoon	28	84
Burundi	22	72	Rangoon	28	84
Bogota	17	63	Rangoon	28	84
Brazzaville	31	88	Rangoon	28	84
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Worst
over for
home
owners

Radio Four's changes win the ear of not-so-disgusted of Tunbridge Wells

BY PAUL MCCANN
Media Editor

JAMES BOYLE, the controller of Radio 4, appears to have pulled off his gamble to revamp radically the radio station that has Britain's most conservative audience.

Radio 4 has attracted 100,000 new listeners following the major overhaul which saw 53 new programmes introduced at the beginning of April. Quarterly figures from Rajar, the radio industry audience research body, show that Radio 4 increased its average weekly audience to 8.25 million in April, May and June. It was the only BBC radio network to increase its audience compared with the first three months of the year.

Mr Boyle's controversial changes to the station attracted accusations of "dumbing down", but were intended both to bring in new listeners and to persuade existing listeners to stay for longer.

He has succeeded in his first task, but average time spent with the station has fallen from 10.8 to 10.4 hours per listener. The BBC claims that the average has fallen because new listeners are still finding their way around the station.

Mr Boyle said yesterday: "I am really pleased with the vote of confidence in the new schedule. We've extended the reach of the station at a time when a lot of people were watching the World Cup. We've got them in and now we've got to make them stick around for longer and we will tweak the programmes. But it looks as if the basic schedule strategy has worked."

Early analysis of the figures shows that the greatest improvement has come in parts of the day when the station has traditionally been weak, such as the afternoons and evenings.

The controversial decision to move Yesterday in Parliament

WHO LISTENS TO WHAT			
	Weekly reach 000	Average hours per listener	Share of listening %
All radio	40285	20.7	100.0
All BBC	26609	14.7	46.9
All BBC Network Radio	23010	13.5	37.3
BBC Radio 1	9356	8.4	9.5
BBC Radio 2	8786	12.0	12.6
BBC Radio 3	2541	4.0	1.2
BBC Radio 4	8254	10.4	10.3
BBC Radio 5 Live	5221	5.9	3.7
BBC local/regional	8591	9.3	9.6
All commercial	28646	14.9	51.1
All national commercial	11933	7.2	10.2
Atlantic 252	2971	4.9	1.7
Classic FM	5045	6.1	3.7
Talk Radio 1053/1089	2575	6.0	1.8
Virgin Radio (AM only)	3359	7.4	3.0
All local radio	23841	14.3	40.8
Other listening	2650	6.7	2.1

on to the long wave version of Radio 4 has given the 8.30am to 9.00am segment of the Today programme a slight boost in the ratings.

However, moving the 9.00am news bulletin into the Today programme and starting new shows at 9am has not stopped the major fall-off in listeners when the flagship current affairs programme ends.

"The 9.00am slot is pretty flatish," said Mr Boyle. "That is what we expected, because there was a huge number of new programmes so we have to look at what has worked and what hasn't."

Moving Woman's Hour forward to 10.00am has given the programme a bigger audience and given the hour between 10.00am and 11.00am its biggest ratings.

The BBC is also claiming a success in moving the Archers from 1.40pm to 2.00pm. More than 90 per cent of the afternoon's 1.1 million Archers audience has moved with the show.

The evening episode of the Archers and the Sunday omnibus are now getting slightly higher audiences so Radio 4 believes listeners who cannot catch the afternoon programme are now listening to the repeats in the evening or at weekends.

Even better, from the BBC's point of view, the 2.00pm Archers audience is now staying with the station to listen to its new afternoon dramas, which replaced poorly performing shows such as Afternoon Shift and Kaleidoscope. The relocation of programmes such as the Moral Maze has helped to lift evening ratings, although the BBC concedes it was starting from a low base.

The Saturday morning schedule which saw the most change, with shows like John Peel's Home Truths and a new time for the Food Programme, has seen little change in its audience, but the BBC says it is grateful not to have lost any listeners due to the changes.



James Boyle: 'We've extended the reach of the station at a time when a lot of people were watching the World Cup'

Peter Macdiarmid

Breakfast audience falls as Radio One slide continues

ZOE BALL, and her co-host Kevin Greening remain a turn-off for hundreds of thousands of Radio 1 listeners, according to figures released yesterday by Rajar (Radio Joint Audience Research Ltd).

Radio 1's breakfast show lost 264,000 listeners in the second quarter of this year, it said, bringing its total weekly audience down to 4.5 million.

BY JANE ROBINS
Media Correspondent

The figures are a blow for BBC Radio bosses whose mission is to halt the collapse of the Radio 1 audience from 21 per cent of all listening five years ago to 9.5 per cent now.

It is particularly worrying for the BBC that commercial radio is taking 65 per cent of listen-

ing among 15-44-year-olds and with 51 per cent of total listening, commercial radio has recorded its highest share yet.

"We think the main problem with the breakfast show is that people are getting up later," said a BBC spokeswoman in an effort to explain the exodus of listeners from Ball's programme.

She pointed out that Simon

Mayo's show, starting at 8am, had augmented its audience by nearly 250,000.

At rival Virgin, this was dismissed as a "daft excuse", and other industry insiders were also less than kind, saying that a question-mark must hang over the performance of Ball in the early-morning slot.

Capital Radio's Chris Tarrant was another loser in the

hard-fought battle of the breakfast shows.

His audience fell by 11 per cent to 1.8 million - but Capital was keen to emphasise that the old man of pop still outperforms Virgin's Chris Evans in London, and a spokesman described his programme as forging ahead while his rivals were in decline.

In one sense the biggest success at breakfast time was

er to show an increase, with a 2.5-per-cent rise, to reach a weekly audience of 2.5 million.

Over the year, Evans has increased the Virgin breakfast audience by a 639,000 listeners, and a spokesman described his programme as forging ahead while his rivals were in decline.

In one sense the biggest success at breakfast time was

Talk Radio's Kirsty Young. Although the Channel 5 news presenter is a minnow among the breakfast-show hosts, she secured a 4-per-cent rise in her audience to 864,000.

Paul Robinson, the managing director of Talk Radio, said Young had been the only presenter in the firmament to build her audience sharply with each set of figures, and he expected her listenership to rise to 1 million by Christmas.

Talk Radio as a whole is experiencing something of a renaissance, and this quarter achieved its highest audience yet at 2.6 million, a figure that must be music to the ears of Kelvin Mackenzie who is putting together a takeover package for the station.

THE DAWN CHORUS



ZOE BALL: RADIO 1

Daughter of Seventies children's television presenter Johnny Ball, she was recruited after the failure of Mark Radcliffe to give breakfast-time Radio 1 a popular touch after the departure of Chris Evans. She also gives it a blonde presence in the tabloids. While the rest of Radio 1 plays newer, hipper music, the breakfast show still needs to bring in a big audience to get listeners tuned to the station for the rest of the day. Ball came from children's television and needs her partner Kevin Greening to manage the programme musically.



CHRIS EVANS: VIRGIN

The human PR machine won a special Sony Radio Award this year specifically for raising radio's profile. Broadcasting style is not revolutionary but he can make people laugh without thinking. Much of his life in the headlines gets into the show, giving listeners a vicarious taste of the celebrity lifestyle. Seen off the national competition from Radio 1: now targeting Chris Tarrant's London dominance. When the veteran Capital DJ moved his start from 6.30am to 6am last week, Evans moved from 7am to 6.30am. Bought Virgin last year for £65m.



CHRIS TARRANT: CAPITAL

Old enough to be Evans's father, but views the younger, brasher man as his biggest rival. Remembered by thirtysomethings as presenter of the legendary *Tiswas* programme, Tarrant has since become a rich man. In 1996, he turned down an offer from Richard Branson to join Virgin for £1.2m, and now has a three-year contract with Capital worth £3m. In his spare time he has built up a clothing company in Italy valued around £20m. Like Evans, he likes to present himself as a bad boy, and claims he drank a swimming pool of whisky when his daughter was born.



KIRSTY YOUNG: TALK RADIO

HER MISSION was to make Talk Radio glamorous and help it shed its shock-jock image. She shot to stardom as the main presenter of Channel 5 news. With a *Vogue* photoshoot and winning performance on *Have I Got News for You*, she has hit the big time. Four years ago she earned £40,000 as a Scottish television presenter; Channel 5 and Talk Radio are said to pay her £750,000. She is still working at the lower-audience end of the market, though - and at Talk Radio cannot attract the big listenership of the rival pop-music breakfast shows.

Jailed Briton released by Burmese

A BRITISH student arrested in Burma while campaigning on human rights and sentenced to five years in prison was yesterday dramatically released.

James Mawdsley is due to arrive back at Heathrow Airport this morning, having been released from Insein jail in Rangoon - one of the most notorious prisons in south-east Asia.

His release - by the military junta known as the State Peace and Development Council - co-

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

incides with the 10th anniversary of the brutal crushing of the pro-democracy movement.

Around 10,000 people were killed in the initial crackdown. Since then, hundreds of thousands more have been tortured, imprisoned and executed.

After James was arrested last April, his mother, Diana, went to work at a Thai clinic on the Burmese border to try and

be as close as possible to her son. Last night, speaking from the clinic, she told *The Independent*: "I am delighted, I can at last breathe more easily."

"The worst thing has been thinking of him in a tiny little cell, all alone for 23 hours every day. That would crack even the strongest-willed person. I saw him in prison six weeks ago and he looked very thin, but he was trying to be strong."

Mr Mawdsley's father,

David, was travelling back to Britain with his son via Bangkok. His father went to Rangoon earlier this week to try to arrange an appeal, though with little hope of success.

Mr Mawdsley, 26, a student, was arrested last April in the Shan province - home to one of Burma's many ethnic groups. He was caught with pro-democracy leaflets, which he had been distributing.

Last year he was arrested

after chaining himself to railings in Rangoon and spraying pro-democracy slogans. On that occasion he was deported after 29 hours in prison.

Foreign Office sources last night said no reason had been given for the release, which had come as a surprise.

The Burmese Action Group will hold a demonstration tomorrow morning at 11am at Queens Walk, on the south bank of the Thames in London.

Virgin Holidays now fly non-stop to Barbados, Antigua and St Lucia.

Flights start this September. Why hang around?

Caribbean Holidays from just £489 per person

By the way, our beautiful CARIBBEAN HOLIDAYS brochure also features DOMINICA, ANTIQUA and ST LUCIA. So your Caribbean holiday is just a brochure away.

Cancer may free Leeson from jail



Ewan McGregor (left), of Trainspotting fame, playing Nick Leeson, who brought down Barings, and Leeson himself (right) being driven off to prison, where he has been diagnosed with cancer

NICK LEESON, the rogue trader whose criminal currency gambles brought down one of Britain's oldest merchant banks, is suffering from cancer, it was confirmed last night. He is said to be seriously ill.

Solicitors acting for Leeson, 31, who is serving a six-and-a-half-year sentence in Singapore's Changi prison for the financial scams that brought down Barings Bank, said cancer had been detected in his colon and had spread to his lymph nodes.

A statement issued on behalf of his former wife, Lisa, 30, who

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE,
LOUISE JURY
AND STEPHEN VINES

was married to Leeson throughout the affair, said: "We are in deep shock and our thoughts at this time are with Nick and his family. As can be imagined, Mr Leeson's family and that of his ex-wife Lisa are devastated at the news."

Leeson's former wife, who now uses her maiden name, Sims, has not seen him for a year. Last night she cancelled her planned marriage to another man which had been due

to take place in Kent later this month. Leeson shot to notoriety in 1995 after a series of unauthorised currency gambles on the Singapore International Monetary Exchange (Simex) using money from his employers, Barings. His actions lost the bankers £860m and brought about the collapse of the bank.

Initially Leeson and his wife went into hiding - first in Indonesia and then in Brunei. They were both eventually arrested in Frankfurt on their way back to Britain and Leeson was convicted for fraud.

Miss Sims said she would stand by her husband, and in a much-publicised move took up a job with Virgin Atlantic airline as a stewardess.

The couple began to lose contact in 1996 and they were divorced last year.

It is said that the last straw in their relationship had been reading her husband's account of the affair, *Rogue Trader*, in which he bragged of his rise to the top of the banking world.

"I was the rising star and we were driven to make profits, profits and more profits," he wrote.

Leeson's solicitor, Stephen Pollard, said yesterday: "All that I know about Mr Leeson's illness is that he has been diagnosed with cancer of the colon and that the cancer has spread to the lymph nodes."

"It is anticipated that he may know more about the prognosis next week and when we have more news this will be released."

Leeson is understood to have been moved to the hospital wing of the prison, where he is waiting return to Britain to complete his sentence.

His father, William, yesterday

said the prison had not been a factor in his son's illness. "The jail is A1. It is as good as gold," he said.

Officials from the British High Commission in Singapore have been visiting Leeson in an effort to monitor his condition.

Yesterday a spokesman said he was "seriously ill" and that an application was being made for his early release on compassionate grounds.

While pardons can only be made by the Singaporean president, Ong Teng Cheong, who himself is suffering from cancer, the prison said yesterday that

any pleas based on extreme illness would be considered as quickly as possible.

The story of Leeson and Miss Sims has been made into a film starring Ewan McGregor, of *Trainspotting* fame, and Anna Friel, formerly of television's *Brookside*. A spokesman for Granada Films said it was still being edited. The film had not yet found a distributor, but was still due for release next year.

Asked whether Leeson's illness might make any difference to release dates, he added: "That's like looking in a crystal ball. Things could change."

Leeson's case, Professor Gordon McVie, director-general of the Cancer Research Campaign, said that urgent action must be taken to stop the cancer spreading to the liver - the most common route - for which there is no known cure.

To prevent this from happening, patients must undergo surgery to remove the cancerous part of the bowel and all the cancerous lymph nodes.

Survival rate as low as 50pc

BY GLENDA COOPER

EVERY DAY about 50 people die of bowel cancer in the United Kingdom, making it the second major cause of cancer death in this country. About 30,000 people develop the disease each year.

Caught early the cure rate is as high as 90 per cent, but for someone like Nick Leeson, where his colon cancer has spread to the lymph nodes, the survival rate goes down to 50 per cent.

Bowel cancer is the development of a malignant growth in the large bowel, or back passage. It occurs when the cells that line the bowel change the way in which they divide.

Men and women of all ages can be affected by this cancer, but it tends to be a disease of old or middle age with 95 per cent of the cases affecting the over-50s. About 5 per cent of patients have a family history of the disease, which is when it tends to appear in those under 45.

It is primarily a disease of the Western world with up to two-thirds of colon cancer attributable to diet, according to the charity Colon Cancer Concern. Eating a large amount of fat, low amounts of fibre plus an excessive alcohol intake can contribute to developing the disease.

There are three standard treatments for colon cancer - surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy either used alone or in combination, depending on the extent of the disease.

In Leeson's case, Professor Gordon McVie, director-general of the Cancer Research Campaign, said that urgent action must be taken to stop the cancer spreading to the liver - the most common route - for which there is no known cure.

To prevent this from happening, patients must undergo surgery to remove the cancerous part of the bowel and all the cancerous lymph nodes.

CS spraying of patients backed by Home Office

SPRINKLING MENTAL patients with CS spray may be the kindest way of dealing with them, a Home Office minister said last night.

Health professionals have urged police to stop using the spray on psychiatric patients after a survey showed more than one-third of NHS mental health trusts had treated people sprayed by police.

But in a Lords written reply last night, Lord Williams of

BY MARTIN HICKMAN

Mostyn said: "Regrettably, there may be occasions when police officers need to use force against people suffering from mental illness, and the use of CS spray may well represent the most benign option."

Researchers at the Bethlem and Maudsley Hospital NHS Trust said they were "appalled" last week to learn of 12 incidents in which the spray

had been used to quell disruptive patients on hospital premises. Their report says the mentally ill are patients, not criminals, and urges action from the Department of Health.

Nineteen of the NHS trusts reported adverse effects of the spray on the health and safety of staff or patients; one nurse with asthma needed emergency treatment, and one trust reported seeing patients where CS spray had been regularly

used once a fortnight. The "chemical strait-jacket" incapacitates victims, causing intense pain, especially around the eyes and can cause blistering and affect breathing.

Later effects include dermatitis and allergic sensitisation. High levels have also been linked to heart attacks. There are additional risks if the person affected suffers asthma or other breathing problems, is taking medication, and is also

restrained. The hazards for those already on anti-psychotic medication are unknown.

Fraser Bell, a senior project nurse, said patients had to wait four hours for the spray's effects to wear off before nurses could touch them without becoming contaminated.

Mr Bell protested: "Rather than go through a long, involved process of negotiating and calming someone down they [the police] just reach for

the spray, subdue them and nick them."

Defending the use of the spray, Lord Williams said its introduction had been welcomed, particularly by women police officers, because it was "seen as easy for even the slightest officer to use".

He added: "The effects of CS spray wear off relatively quickly and have no significant long-term effects. The physical impact involved in making a

hation strike will inevitably carry a greater risk to the health of the person who is struck."

CS Spray has been increasingly used by police to quell disturbances. In the past year it has been used against football fans, New Age travellers and protesting beef farmers. Since last October, it has been available to all members of the Metropolitan Police.

Five NHS trusts in the South and West, and four in the North-

west had reported the use of CS spray by police.

One mental health practitioner told the researchers: "I thought CS [spray] was to help police prevent crime, not hit people with mental health problems. In the past, the police would have spent more time talking to patients. The spray seems like a short-cut, a quick and easy answer. These are patients that nurses deal with daily - we don't have to resort to this."

IN BRIEF

Breast screening for older women could save 5,000 lives

SPENDING AN extra £10m a year on breast screening could save the lives of more than 5,000 older women, according to a study in the *British Medical Journal*. The NHS programme screens women aged 50 to 64 every three years. After that age, women can be screened but only if they refer themselves. The programme reduces deaths from breast cancer by 12.8 per cent. But researchers estimate that by extending the programme to women aged 65 it would reduce deaths by 16.4 per cent and prevent 5,311 deaths over a 27-year period.

Sunk trawler "was spying"

FISHERMEN recruited as spies alleged yesterday that two senior crewmen on a trawler sunk at the height of the Cold War also had links to the security services. Defence officials have consistently denied the 21ft MV Gaul was involved in surveillance work when it went down with the loss of 36 crew 24 years ago. But a Channel 4 News report has presented new testimony from former colleagues.

One drug better than two

WOMEN TAKING a single "morning after" drug rather than the current two would have a much better chance of avoiding unwanted pregnancies, research suggested today. *The Lancet* reports that the hormone levonorgestrel given alone in a higher dose is significantly more effective than when it is combined with another drug. Side effects of nausea and vomiting were also significantly less frequent with the new treatment.

Search for missing teenager

POLICE WERE continuing to hunt last night for a 15-year-old girl with the mental age of five who has been missing for more than 24 hours. Fifteen officers were searching the Newton Aycliffe area of south Durham where Rebecca Morton was last seen leaving her family home yesterday lunchtime bound for local shops a mile away. Police say she was not the type of girl to be easily led astray by strangers.

It won't be them

A SOUTH LONDON Co-op supermarket has had its lottery licence suspended after being caught selling tickets to under-16s. The move comes after National Lottery operators Camelot announced a clampdown on retailers breaking the law selling to underage customers. A Co-op shop assistant was caught on camera selling tickets to two youngsters, aged 10 and 11.

Scottish students get best-ever results

THOUSANDS of Scottish students were celebrating academic success today as Standard and Higher Grade exam passes rose to near-record levels.

Provisional results showed higher pass rates were up to 69 per cent, compared with 68.5 per cent last year.

The percentage of A grades, crucial for deciding university entrance, was also slightly up, reaching 15.7 per cent, compared with 15.3 per cent last year.

Standard Grade results, the equivalent of GCSEs in the rest of the United Kingdom, were also up, with 39.4 per cent of candidates gaining the top two grades.

Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, congratulated students on the results.

He said: "These results are testimony to the efforts to individual pupils who clearly recognise the importance of education for their futures."

BY BEN RUSSELL,
Education Correspondent

Today marks the start of the annual rush to fill university places in Scotland.

The vast majority of the 27,300 Scottish students hoping for a place at university are expected to get the grades they need.

But officials at the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service expect around 6,000 students to enter the clearing system in Scotland this year, which matches students with unfilled university places.

The Independent is publishing exclusively the official UCAS list of surplus Scottish university places available through clearing for the first time today.

Updated lists will also be published at the weekend in *The Independent* on Sunday. Tony Higgins, the UCAS chief executive, said: "Prospective

students who find themselves in the unfortunate position of not having the higher grades they need will realise that any decision they make now will affect their future career."

"The official UCAS clearing list is the vital tool for those higher students who have to go through clearing."

Ron Tuck, chief executive of the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), which is responsible for public examinations north of the border, said: "The increase in the percentage of passes at A this year, albeit slight, can be put down to hard work on the part of candidates and teaching staff, and I believe congratulations are due to all concerned."

"SQA maintains a rigorous programme of quality control which ensures that the higher grades taken this year have exactly the same value as those taken in previous years."

Ulster victims meet killers

VICTIMS OF terrorist violence in Northern Ireland will come face-to-face with former prisoners under a new scheme aimed at healing divisions, it emerged yesterday.

As Ulster's prisoner release scheme got under way, it was disclosed that both Protestant and Catholic relatives of victims have been asked to sit down with freed paramilitaries.

A group called Victims of

Trauma is working with the republican pressure group Saorise to bring the two sides together in the next fortnight.

"If the victims can sit down and talk with us it might help both sides to see the suffering we have in common," said Martin Meehan of Saorise, who served more than 20 years for terrorist offences.

The move came as paramilitary prisoners in the Maze

were filing in their application forms as the countdown to their release began. The first group could be out by the end of this month.

Mr Meehan said the meeting could involve some of the first prisoners freed under the release scheme set up by the Good Friday agreement. Victims will be notified when prisoners who have offended against them are about to be freed.

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Pill inventor centre stage at the Fringe

A BRILLIANT scientist, best known as the inventor of the contraceptive pill, is to inject a spark of scientific controversy into the wit and drama of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Carl Djerassi, 74, has written his first play, which opened last night as the festival season gets under way.

And as the fringe opens officially this weekend, it has been saved from a funding crisis - and major holes in the programme - by a last-minute deal.

Professor Djerassi hopes *An Immaculate Misconception*, about a woman scientist who wants to get pregnant using her own revolutionary in-vitro fertilisation technique, will provoke the kind of debates last seen in theatre when David Mamet challenged political correctness in *Oleanna*.

"If I wrote an article about it, a lot of people would not read it. So I decided I would write a play about it," said Professor Djerassi, who has come to Edinburgh from his home near San Francisco for the premiere.

"I, as a scientist, worked obsessively to prevent the creation of new life through ordinary intercourse. Now I'm writing about the creation of new life without intercourse."

While his play definitely goes ahead, top acts like comedians Jo Brand and Alan Davies and a first ever staging by the Royal Shakespeare Company of

BY DOMINIC CAVENTISH
AND LOUISE JUKY

Krapp's Last Tape by Samuel Beckett were threatened when Edinburgh City Council halved the grant to the Georgian Assembly Rooms, one of the main fringe venues, and simultaneously increased the rent to the charitable company which turns the rooms into six temporary theatres for the three-week festival run.

But Steve Cardownie, convenor of the council's recreation committee, and William Burdett-Coutts, artistic director of the Assembly Rooms met and thrashed out an eleventh-hour compromise safeguarding the programme, at least for this year.

The rent has dropped to around £65,000 and the council will take a share in any surplus receipts.

Mr Burdett-Coutts was content with the immediate outcome but said councillors did not take the fringe sufficiently seriously.

"Long-term there needs to be a sea-change in attitude if the fringe is to survive," he said. The first dramatic feats from the festival yesterday were less cerebral than Prof. Djerassi's work.

Eighteen performers from the Circus of Horrors, a children's television presenter and a press-ganged firefighter yesterday broke a world record by

dangling 90 metres above an Edinburgh park.

They were hoisted into the sky to break the record for hanging the most people on a human mobile at the tallest height.

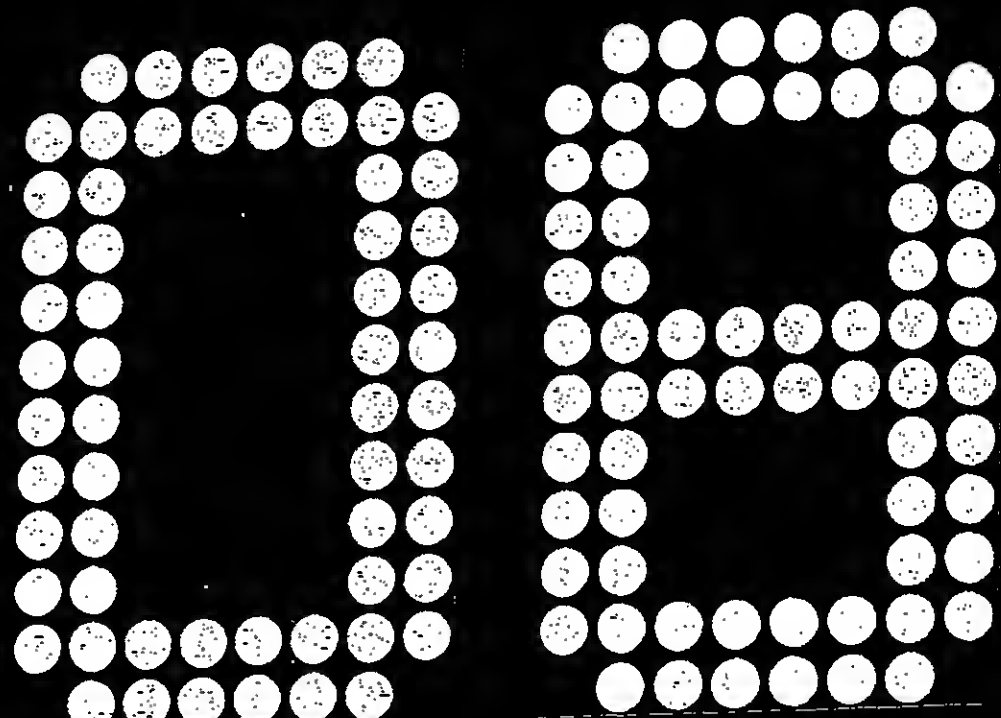
American actress Katherine Faulkner, meanwhile, was breaking records just by being there. At 82, the performer with a San Diego company is the oldest actor on the fringe.

Elsewhere fringe artist John Kamikaze is to be suspended horizontally by meat hooks pierced through his back and legs while Trash, a female sword swallower, eats maggots and worms and invites the audience to smell her breath.



A court jester gets tourists in the Royal Mile into the festival mood as the Edinburgh Fringe opens for business David Moir/Newsflash

08 codes are changing...
it's part of the big number.



College results 'unacceptably low'

TOUGH NEW targets are needed to raise "unacceptably low" levels of achievement in many further education colleges, according to a report published today by a powerful committee of MPs.

The Commons Public Accounts Committee said fewer than half of students gained the qualifications they had studied for in as many as 10 per cent of colleges. They want Ministers and the Further Education Funding Council to set "a searching challenge for colleges".

David Davis, the committee's chairman, said: "The variability in the levels of student achievement is very disturbing."

BY BEN RUSSELL
Education Correspondent

On average, 67 per cent of college students get the qualification at the end of their course. But the report pointed to variations between colleges. The so-called achievement rate in some colleges was 99 per cent, while in the worst, Hackney Community College, London, the average slumped as low as 24 per cent.

Further education colleges provide education and training for more than 4 million full and part-time students at an annual cost of £4bn. The Government has promised an extra £255m over three years.

THE INDEPENDENT

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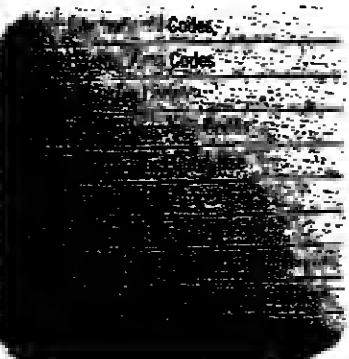
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Calls cost 50 p per minute and should last no longer than two minutes. Winners will be picked at random after the lines close at midnight on Sunday 9th August 1998. Usual independent rules apply. Editors decision is final.



For some time now, telephone numbers that begin with 08 have had many different, and sometimes confusing, functions. For instance, a number that starts with 08 could be for a mobile, a premium rate service or a freephone number. Three very different numbers and three potentially different costs. As part of the Big Number change, we want to simplify things. From now on all new numbers beginning with 08 will be for special rate services only. What are special rate services? Quite simply they are a set of predetermined cost gradings for a call. And there are three of them. Free, Local and National.

FREE. Free calls will begin with 080, just as many do now. For instance, 0800 is widely recognised as a freephone number. And it will continue as such. But due to increasing demand there is now a second, new freephone prefix, 0808. In fact our helpline number (0808 22 4 2000) uses this prefix. So keep an eye out for numbers that begin 080. They're free to call.

LOCAL RATE. All calls charged at Local rates will, in time, begin with 084. The 0845 code is such a number and it is already being used by businesses who want to make themselves 'only a local call away'. So make a note. 084 equals local rate.

NATIONAL RATE. Calls charged at National rate will begin with 087. 0870 is such a number. Numbers that start with these codes are easy to reach, no matter where you call from. So keep an eye out for them.

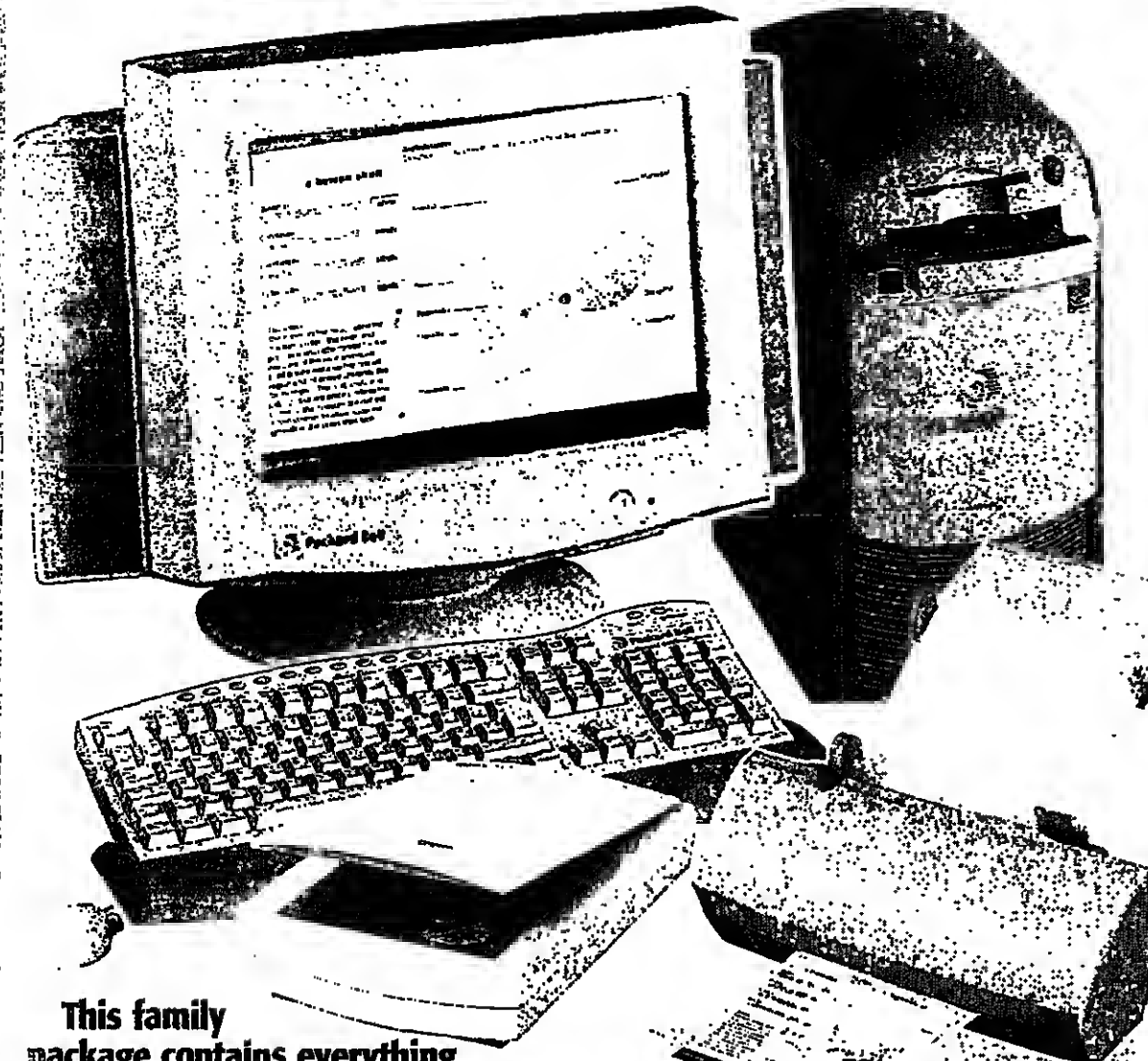
These changes won't happen overnight. In fact for some time the old 08 codes will co-exist with the new ones. But in time, by about 2001, the changeover will be complete.

If you want to know more about these changes or any of the changes to our telephone numbering system please call our new Freephone number on 0808 22 4 2000 or visit our website at www.numberchange.org

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Labour toned down Campbell criticism

"We were given no clear evidence that Mr Campbell provides some journalists with special treatment. There are in any case procedures which can be implemented within the lobby to deal with any such allegations," it said.

The selection of heads of information should continue to be made on a basis that did not give rise to any suspicion of po-



litical interference, it said.

The lobby system under which Mr Campbell briefs journalists should be kept under review, but appeared to be working well since a recent reform changed "Downing Street sources" to "the Prime Minister's official spokesman."

The committee chairman, Rhodri Morgan (Lab, Cardiff

W), said the appointment of Jack Cunningham as a cabinet "enforcer" with responsibility for spin doctors represented a success for the committee. Dr Cunningham would probably be called to give evidence in the next session, he suggested.

"I don't know whether it's the first time ever that a select committee has had a response

to its report even before it's been published, but it has been made clear to me at the top level that the appointment of Jack Cunningham ... was a response to concerns that had swirled around our inquiry," he said.

**Leading article,
Steve Richards,
Review, page 3**

Former government PR chiefs attack interference

Liz Drummond, of the Scot-

Mr Reardon said Harriet Harman's advisers "sought to reproduce the tone of the Labour manifesto and repeat its election commitments as emerging news." He wrote: "During the four-and-a-half months that I remained director of information at the DSS the relationship between the

press office and the special advisers was a difficult one ... the drafting of departmental press releases was closely scrutinised to the point of obsession by the special advisers."

Ms Drummond said there was a case for allowing ministers to bring in their own press officers, as they do in the United States. "There are strong arguments against it ... but it would have the advantage of being a more honest, open and acknowledged system instead of the creeping politicisation."

Labour's "hit-and-run tactics, moving swiftly on to the

next target" in Opposition was not suitable for a government, she added. "Many press officers have privately expressed their uneasiness at being expected to switch to a more aggressive approach where seizing the agenda and occupying the front pages is apparently more important than the content."

Mr Wood said unpopular ministers were determined to blame their press officers for the bad press they received. "Killing the messenger has replaced 'Hunting the Tories' as New Labour's blood sport of choice," he wrote.

Short under fire over Sudan

The International Development Select Committee said it was "premature of the Secretary

By MICHAEL CLARKE

of State to announce in such bald terms that there was no lack of money or resources for Sudan".

Ms Short said the move by UNICEF and the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), which co-ordinates the relief work of 15 UK agencies, had reduced pressure on the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army to call a ceasefire.

The MPs said: "We see no reason why political pressure

from the public is incompatible with public donations to a humanitarian appeal if non-governmental organisations simultaneously engage the public in advocacy work."

International Development Committee member Ann Clwyd (Lab Cynon Valley) said there were serious questions about how Ms Short had come to her conclusions. Meanwhile, Liberal Democrat International Development spokeswoman, Jenny Tonge, (Richmond Park), said

Ms Short's intervention at such a difficult time had only made the situation worse.

Clare Short said both she and her department would be responding to the committee's "detailed recommendations" at a later date.

The Government had been instrumental in brokering a ceasefire. "We must increase the pressure for an end to the conflict so that the people of Sudan can rebuild their shattered lives," Ms Short said.

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الجمعة 7 أغسطس 1998

Nameplate leads trail to court of King Arthur

By DAVID KEYS
Archaeology Correspondent

A NEW discovery has shed light on the origins of the legend of King Arthur at Tintagel, the West Country fortress where, according to fable, he held court with his knights of the round table.

Archaeologists have revealed that while Arthur may be little more than romantic fiction, a near namesake did live at Tintagel in the 6th century - the very period usually associated with Arthurian legend.

Excavation work at the Cornish castle has unearthed an extraordinary inscription apparently made by a man called Arthnou. Research at the site, directed by archaeologist Christopher Morris, of the University of Glasgow, bolsters the idea that Tintagel was the site of an important royal palace in the 5th and 6th centuries AD, and may have been the main seat of the rulers of the British Kingdom of Dumnonia, covering modern Cornwall, Devon and possibly Somerset.

In reality, King Arthur was probably a British war leader who resisted Anglo-Saxon expansion in the early 6th century, but there is absolutely no evidence that he ever visited Tintagel - one of the key sites so often associated with him. The only genuinely Medieval Arthurian link with the site is a historically dubious passage in a 12th century book claiming that he was conceived there. Most references are, in fact, 19th century in origin in-



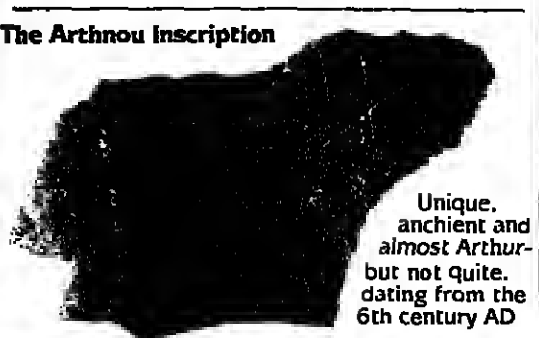
cluding a story that as a baby, Arthur had been washed up on Tintagel beach and discovered there by Merlin.

But the inscription is the first 6th century British archaeological evidence testifying to the popularity of "Arthur-type" names in Dark Age Britain. "Arth" simply means bear - and later genealogical tables and charters suggest that back in

the Dark Ages (including the 6th century), bear names were all the rage. Proud parents named their offspring Arthmail (Bear Prince), Arthan (little bear),

Arthen (bear-hegemon), Arth-hu (bear life), and even Arth-uolou (bear-light). The newly discovered Tintagel inscription refers to a man called Artoignou - a name

- 1 Probable site of 5-6th century Royal Palace
- 2 Site of 11 acre 5-7th century settlement
- 3 Arthnou inscription found here
- 4 13th century defensive wall
- 5 Ancient anchorage point near steps
- 6 Part of 13th century castle
- 7 Merlin's cave



which was almost certainly pronounced 'Arthnou', Artoignou (literally, "known as a Bear") was simply a rather pretentious, archaic way of spelling it. The English translation of the

overlooking the sea, as yet, it seems, largely un-excavated.

The words were inscribed on a slate plaque, probably placed on the outside of a building on the sheltered eastern edge of the rocky Tintagel peninsula. Detailed work on the inscription is currently underway. The handwriting style may well originate from what is now France, while thousands of pottery fragments found at Tintagel came from wine and olive oil amphorae and dinner services imported in the 5th and 6th centuries from Greece, North Africa and Turkey. As a royal palace, Tintagel clearly had contact with the Continent and the Mediterranean.

Although Britain by then was not part of the Roman imperial system, it may have been viewed by the Empire, re-expanding in the 6th century, as an associated territory.

The new discovery is likely to provoke controversy in the archaeological world, where any link between Tintagel and Arthur is viewed with great scepticism. However, English Heritage, which administers the Tintagel site and finances the excavations, seems determined to "Arthurise" the discovery and play the Tintagel Arthur card for all it is worth.

Yesterday English Heritage announced the inscription discovery as the "find of a lifetime", and said the discoveries being made at Tintagel added "a new dimension to the debate about the possibility of there having been a real Arthur, upon whom the mythical figure was based."

Clash on gays like Islam, bishop says

THE BISHOP of Edinburgh, the Right Rev Richard Holloway, yesterday added further controversy to the Anglican Church's internal clashes over sexual orientation, saying the debate on homosexuality at the Lambeth Conference illustrated just how "Islamified" the Anglican Church had become.

Still reeling from the uncompromising resolution against homosexuality, which was overwhelmingly supported by African and Asian bishops at the conference, Bishop Holloway said: "We tried to understand that they live in Islamic countries and therefore Islamify Christianity, making it more severe, Protestant and legalistic."

"None of them could understand that we too operate in a context. In northern Atlantic countries we live in a post-traditionalist society in which you can't simply apply anything by authority. You have to offer reasons."

He said the definition of a fundamentalist was "someone who refuses to negotiate", adding "we've seen a lot of that in the last three weeks ... [Wednesday's] resolution represents a shift of gravity towards the South - and that's fair enough because historical-

ity it was the other way round." Fundamentalism had taken a grip, he said, "because we live in a period of accelerated political, social and economic change. One reaction is to retreat behind the drawbridge and go back to a particular paradigm."

Bishop Holloway, who is Primate of the Scottish Episcopal Church, said that he had felt "lynched" during Wednesday's debate on homosexuality. "There are a lot of people around this conference serving the bishops who mugged them yesterday. They are feeling fed-up, broken-hearted, and wondering whether they belong in this communion."

Bishop Holloway dismissed as "pathetic" Dr Carey's contribution to the homosexuality debate. Dr Carey was among those who voted for strengthening the motion to include an additional clause rejecting homosexual practice as incompatible with scripture.

Before the vote, Dr Carey made a speech in which, while urging the need for both sides to listen, he said: "I stand wholeheartedly with traditional Anglican orthodoxy. I see no room in scripture or Christian tradition for any sexual activ-

ity outside matrimony of husband and wife." Bishop Holloway commented: "I think he was trying to provide a nice, fluffy epilogue. It would have been better for him to remain silent."

He said he sorely regretted the conference had not concentrated on the key question of how scripture should be interpreted: whether the Bible should be treated as the literal word of God, or interpreted afresh for every generation.

"If someone gets up and quotes a Bible verse, we have to get at the theology behind that," he said. "We have to use big themes in scripture to judge the lesser themes."

Just as with divorce, he said, "the gospel of forgiveness overrides the rule that you shouldn't remarry," so with same-sex relations "the greater themes about love and generosity should override the legalistic stuff."

Bishop Holloway was among several bishops who yesterday released statements expressing their dissatisfaction with the resolution and indicating that same-sex unions would continue to be blessed and lesbians and gays ordained.

Tougher image for probation service

MINISTERS YESTERDAY proposed the biggest shake-up in the 91-year history of the probation service, because it has acquired too much of a "caring" image.

They want probation officers to become civil servants in a new national "Public Protection Service" answerable to the Home Secretary, Jack Straw. Yesterday he published a consultation document which said the public associated probation officers with "a tolerance of crime".

The government wants to alter the way a probation officer's role is described in law. Mr Straw's document said: "Legislation still directs probation officers to 'advise, assist and befriend' offenders. This is completely out of line not just with the expectations of the courts but also with the reality

of the work which probation staff undertake."

The Home Office proposals to set up a national Next Steps Agency with a chief executive reporting to Mr Straw would mean the service being slimmed to 42 regional units, from the 54 existing probation areas each of which is run by an autonomous probation committee.

The Home Office document said: "The lack of democratic accountability even at local level is a concern."

The consultation paper was launched by the Home Office minister, Lord Williams of Mostyn, who said the government had ruled out a merger of prison and probation services,

But Richard Tilt, director general of the prison service, said the two organisations would be working closer together and he hoped to see a greater exchange of staff between the two disciplines.

Lord Williams said he was aware that some would see the changes in name as a "cosmetic" exercise but it was important to change the public's perception of probation work, and particularly community sentences which were seen as a "soft touch".

Howard Lockwood, chair of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation, said a national agency with direct access to the Home Secretary was likely to give the service greater resources but could result in "top-heavy bureaucracy" and less efficiency.

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Bikers warned of rally violence

AN ANNUAL motorcycle rally organised by the Hells Angels at a disused airfield in the Warwickshire countryside has been threatened with explosives attacks by rival biker gangs, according to police intelligence.

The Bulldog Bash which is expected to attract at least 20,000 motorcycle enthusiasts and generate around £500,000 for the Hells Angels began yesterday under the distant watch of armed police.

Officers outside the site carried out random searches as bikers arrived for the start of a four-day rally, which has been drawn into a feud between the Hells Angels and their rivals, the Outcasts and the Outlaws.

The feud, which was revealed last month in *The Independent*, has been linked to fatal stabbings and a series of shootings and attempted arson and bombings during the past year.

Warwickshire police fear the Bulldog Bash - which for 11 years has been held without serious problems in the village of Long Marston, near Stratford-upon-Avon - will become the next battleground in the biker war.

Deputy Chief Constable Mike Brewer said: "The Na-

BY IAN BURRELL
AND GARY FINN

tional Criminal Intelligence Service issued a warning some three weeks ago to all forces referring to possible armed conflict. Their warning referred specifically to automatic weapons and explosives."

The police have no powers to stop the event because it is held on private property and the Hells Angels make their own security arrangements.

Mr Brewer said two meetings had been held with the Hells Angels All England chapter, at which requests for a cancellation had been made but declined.

Yesterday at the airfield there was little indication of the threat of armed conflict. Onsite security was handled by 200 Hells Angels and their "helpers" - mountains of leather, hair and blue-green tattoos who stalked the perimeter. Nearly every biker and almost every vehicle entering the airfield was searched.

The event is scheduled to run until Sunday and includes a live performance by veteran rock band The Stranglers, a rave tent and various biker-related events.



Bikers waiting to enter the Bulldog Bash yesterday. Hells Angels and their helpers are providing security for the event

Tom Pileton

Yesterday a village of tents was being established and stalls were set up to sell beer, hot dogs and vegetarian food for the New Age biker.

The roar of bikes, quads, trikes and one-cylinder Harley Davidsons underpinned every activity.

In an interview with BBC

radio, Hells Angels spokesman Maz Harris said his gang was co-operating with police after the explosives warning.

"It does sound fairly alarming and I have been to several talks with Warwickshire police," he said. "Frankly I think it's a red herring. It's ever so easy to phone up and make

bomb threats in order to cancel an event."

He said there was no question of stopping the event but extra safety precautions were being taken.

According to Mr Harris, the biker feud is being exaggerated. "It seems to me that people inside the motorcycle commu-

nity know more than [police] do about what could happen. There are always fights going on between rival bikers."

Later yesterday, Mr Harris, 49, who has a PhD in motorcycle culture, told *The Independent*: "There are people you get on with in life and there are people you don't but

it doesn't mean you have to blow them up."

"This, for Angels and other bikers, is our annual holiday. You rub along as best you can."

Some bikers at the Bulldog Bash attributed the explosives warnings to a rogue e-mail from a dissident biker group. But Warwickshire police

said they were taking the threats "very seriously".

Meanwhile Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has been urged by sections of the motorcycle industry to make the Hells Angels a proscribed organisation because police have linked the gang with criminal activity.

Birth defects rise if mother lives near waste dumps

WOMEN LIVING close to waste dumps face a third higher risk of giving birth to children with defects. The *Lancet* reports today.

A study that checked 21 landfill sites in five countries found there was a 33 per cent increase in birth defects such as spina bifida and holes in the heart

BY GLENDA COOPER

when mothers lived within 3km (1.8 miles) of a site.

The researchers from London looked at 1,089 cases of children born with birth defects whose mothers had lived within 7km (4.3 miles) of a landfill site and matched them with

2,366 children without malformations whose mothers lived within a similar zone.

The risks fell the farther women lived from the sites.

"We have found increased risks of many types of congenital anomaly near the landfill sites," said the researchers. "There was a significantly over-

all increased risk of neural-tube defects, malformations of the cardiac septa (hole-in-the-heart), and malformations of the great arteries and veins in residents near the sites."

But it was not clear whether the increased risk of birth defects was caused by living near toxic waste or by some other

factor. They recommended health monitoring for landfill sites and other pollution sources, to include registers of birth defects and assessment of exposure to chemicals.

"Our results show the need for further investigation of the potential environmental and health risks of landfill sites and

for a more systematic environmental health surveillance system in Europe," the team added.

Professor Goran Pershagen, from the Institute of Environmental Medicine, Stockholm, stressed that no one knew how much exposure, if any, the women had had to chemicals from the landfill sites. "Overall

the evidence is very limited, and the results clearly point to the need for further study," he said.

Friends of the Earth said there were 8,000 landfill sites in the UK of which 2,000 are active. Mike Childs, the senior waste campaigner at FoE said yesterday: "This research is extremely worrying. We have

warned for years that landfill sites are toxic timebombs. There are thousands of landfill sites and no one has a clue what toxic chemicals are dumped in many of them."

"The Government must urgently conduct detailed health studies around rubbish dumps in the UK."

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Shoppers arriving at the Asda store in Wakefield. A special coach was laid on for bargain-hunters in search of designer goods Steve Forrest

No plot to kill Gaddafi, says secret service

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday flatly denied claims that British agents carried out a botched plot to assassinate the Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Gaddafi.

The charges were apparently made by the renegade intelligence MI5 officer, David Shayler, who is in jail in Paris awaiting extradition to Britain for an alleged breach of the Official Secrets Act.

Among the claims Mr Shayler was believed to be planning to publish on the Internet, was that in February 1996 MI6 agents tried to assassinate the Libyan leader.

A story in the New York Times said agents placed a bomb under a car believed to be the Colonel's.

But the agents selected the wrong vehicle and the bomb exploded, killing several innocent bystanders.

Yesterday a spokesman for the Foreign Office, the department with responsibility for MI6, the overseas secret intelligence service (SIS), said there had never been such a plot.

"The central claim that there has been a plot to kill Colonel Gaddafi is rubbish," said a spokesman.

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

"It's inconceivable that in a non-war-time situation that the Government would authorise the SIS to bump off a foreign leader."

"In theory, the SIS can carry out assassinations but only at the express request of the Foreign Secretary. We are really talking only a wartime situation."

The spokesman refused to say how many assassinations had been carried out by the SIS in the last 30 years. But it is understood that Colonel Gaddafi and his Libyan regime are targets of ongoing intelligence operations by MI6.

The Foreign Secretary in February 1996 - the man who would have had to give permission for any assassination - was Malcolm Rifkind, who lost his seat at the last election. Yesterday he was unavailable for comment.

Mr Shayler has made a string of claims. He left MI5 last year to make a series of revelations in a Sunday newspaper. He said he was trying to expose bureaucracy and hypocrisy within the service.

Last night Mr Shayler's

lawyer, John Wadham, refused to say whether his client had made the allegations about Gaddafi.

"If it is the case that the security services were involved in a plot to assassinate the leader of another country then that is a matter that is in the public interest and the public have a right to know," said Mr Wadham, who is in Paris and is to visit Mr Shayler in jail later today.

"No-one should be prosecuted even if there was a technical breach of the Official Secrets Act. This demonstrates the farcical nature of the Act if it stops people discussing plots to kill foreign leaders."

Colonel Gaddafi seized power 29 years ago in a bloodless coup, overthrowing a monarch and corrupt regime. He has used much of Libya's oil wealth to improve the general standard of living, though he is suspected of attacks on Israel and other foreign powers.

In 1986, after confrontations with the US, Ronald Reagan, then the President, ordered American F-111s based in Britain to bomb Tripoli. Among those killed was Gaddafi's daughter.

Designer shoppers lured by Asda prices

ASDA FIRED the latest salvo yesterday in its battle over cut-price designer goods, luring shoppers away from the Harvey Nichols outlet in Leeds to its own store in nearby Wakefield.

The supermarket chain has set up its own "grey market" stall of designer goods there in a direct challenge to last month's European ruling banning the sale of such goods by unauthorised retailers.

The European Court ruling aimed to stop the flow of designer goods to retailers from unauthorised wholesalers outside the EU - a supply channel known as the grey market.

Asda claims the ruling is unclear and has vowed to continue fighting designer manufacturers on behalf of the shopper.

Yesterday it laid on a coach from outside Harvey Nichols, whose London branch was immortalised in the television series *Absolutely Fabulous*, to take shoppers to its own store where they were greeted by staff in dinner jackets.

Justin King, Asda's deputy trading director, said: "We've

BY LOUISE JURY

tried to obtain official supplies of designer products, but our requests always fall on deaf ears - despite the fact that brands are happy for their products to be sold on airline trolleys, by mail order or even on the Internet."

Phil Reed, the store's corporate affairs director, said many of the 35 people who joined the coach had been browsing in Harvey Nichols but could not afford the prices.

"We would love to be able to stock all the designer products that Harvey Nichols stocks, and do this in all 219 stores, but manufacturers will not let us. They think supermarkets are not the right environment for their products."

Among the offers available at Wakefield and other Asda stores yesterday were Calvin Klein's CK1 fragrance for £25.99 instead of £29. Discounts of up to 50 per cent were available on scarves, bags and watches from designers including Yves St Laurent, Dolce & Gabbana and Moschino.

David Ruzicka, a 44-year-old businessman, visited the store with his daughter, Kimberly, 16, and bought a Timberland watch and Calvin Klein and Gucci sunglasses, saving more than £100 on the list prices.

"I think from a consumer's point of view it's great," he said. "From a business point of view, I can see what the problems are - the manufacturers want to try to retain some profit. They've got to be careful they don't destroy the designer names by cheapening them too much. But I don't think whether you buy the goods from a posh shop or not has anything to do with it."

A Calvin Klein spokeswoman declined to comment: "We will have to look into this in more detail." But it is known that designer label manufacturers have been furious at the apparent lack of control they have over where their products are sold and at what price.

Earlier this week, Tesco announced it would be selling grey-market designer items in two of its stores until further notice despite the European ban.

WHERE TO BUY CUT-PRICE TOP NAMES

ASDA
In Wakefield:
Scarves - Yves St Laurent, Ungaro, Nina Ricci and Mantero £29.99 (Usual price £59 to £89); Ties - Christian Lacroix, Ungaro, Yves St Laurent, Trussardi, Gianfranco Ferré £19.99 (£49 to £79).
Handbags - Versace £99.99 (at least £149); Shoulder bags - Dolce & Gabbana £49.99 (at least £80), Moschino £124.99 (at least £199); Watches - Timberland £59.99 (£99).
Sunglasses - Silhouette, Bojner Titanium, Bolle, Burberry, Calvin Klein, Carrere, DAKS, Diesel, G Armani, Gucci, Hugo Boss, Ines de la Fressag, Polo, Polo, Ralph Lauren, Versace £29.50 to £79.50 (£59 to £163).

Skincare - Clarins 20 per cent below usual price; Fragrances - Amariage, Anais Anais, Dolce & Gabbana, Dune, Eden, Jazz, Kouros, Lou Lou, Narcisse, Nino Cerruti, Opium, Paco Rabanne, Paris, Versace, XS, and Ysatis up to 50 per cent below usual price.
All 219 stores have fragrances. Nearly 100 have sunglasses. Clarins skincare available in 25.

TESCO
Stores at Pitsa, Essex, and New Malden, Surrey, are to carry permanent stocks of grey-market goods, including electrical equipment and mountain bikes and clothing.
Levi 501 jeans (blue and black) £30 (sold at other stores for £49); Adidas 3-stripe T-shirt £11 (£15.99); Calvin Klein boxer brief £10 (£19); Nike Airmax Triax trainer £45 (£79.99); Premiership football shirts £33 (£45); Adidas SL95 Plus Lea running shoes £25 (£49.99).
Other stores may have odd bargains from previous consignments.

SAFEBAY
No new consignments at present, but may still have some items like England football shirts in individual stores.

SAINSBURY
None in Sainsbury supermarkets at present but its 13 Savacentre hypermarkets have some existing stocks of Calvin Klein underwear and Nike and Adidas leisurewear.

Baby stabbed by escapee

A PSYCHIATRIC patient was able to walk out of a hospital and stab a toddler in the stomach because of a breakdown in communications among those who cared for him, an inquiry has found.

Malcolm Calladine stabbed Ashleigh Baker, aged 17 months, as she sat in a pram outside a shop in Nottingham in January 1997. She underwent surgery but has since made a full recovery. Calladine was sent to the Rampton Special Hospital indefinitely after being found unfit to plead to attempted murder.

Calladine gave adult educa-

tion staff at the Highbury psychiatric hospital in Nottingham the slip, saying he was going to get a drink. Instead he caught a bus into the city centre where he bought a knife and attacked Ashleigh.

The alarm was not raised for more than half an hour after Calladine went missing because his teacher did not realise the full significance of his disappearance and then could not contact the relevant staff.

But Nottingham health au-

thority, after a year-long inquiry, said yesterday that the incident could not have been predicted or prevented.

Calladine, who had a history of learning difficulties and mental health problems, was not considered dangerous to others, the inquiry heard. That may have been because notes for patients with learning difficulties are often not comprehensive and underplayed the risk he posed.

The inquiry panel said that "with the benefit of hindsight" communications between staff, and between staff and police, and risk assessment of patients could have been better.

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China braced for new floods crisis

JUST AS one flood peak passes, another one surges down the Yangtze. China is facing a critical weekend with water levels in the middle reaches of the river rising to emergency heights as a new flood crest heads toward the most dangerous section of the main embankment.

Record flood levels at Shashi city are expected today to reach the point at which central government rules would permit main dykes to be breached on purpose. Flooding rural plains in Hubei province in order to safeguard the Jinjiang embankment and the city of Wuhan downstream.

Zhao Chunming, deputy director of the general office of the State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters, said yesterday: "We still have to see whether there is a real need for flood diversion... People in those areas are prepared. We will try our best not to divert water unless it is absolutely necessary."

The Jinjiang embankment is the most vulnerable section of the mainstream Yangtze and is scheduled to receive the crest - the fourth this summer - this weekend. Hubei announced a state of emergency yesterday.

BY TERESA POOLE
in Peking

The huge human and economic toll of China's floods so far this year was finally revealed by the government yesterday. More than 2,000 people had died in the floods by 2 August, the highest number for this point in the year since 1991. Fan Baojun, vice-chairman of the China National Committee for Disaster Alleviation, said: "Ninety per cent of deaths were caused by landslides which swallowed houses and villages. Some people died when struck by electricity or in accidents."

Most of the severe damage has been along the Yangtze. Some 13.8 million people have been relocated because of flooding, 5.6 million houses destroyed, and another 12 million homes damaged or flooded. Unknown millions are camped out in makeshift tents along the tops of embankments, often staying near their submerged properties in order to ward off thieves.

The devastation of agricultural cropland has also been huge, with 4.8 million hectares of crops wiped out and another 13 million hectares seriously affected. Mr Fan said 240



Villagers in Jinjiang flee their flooded homes

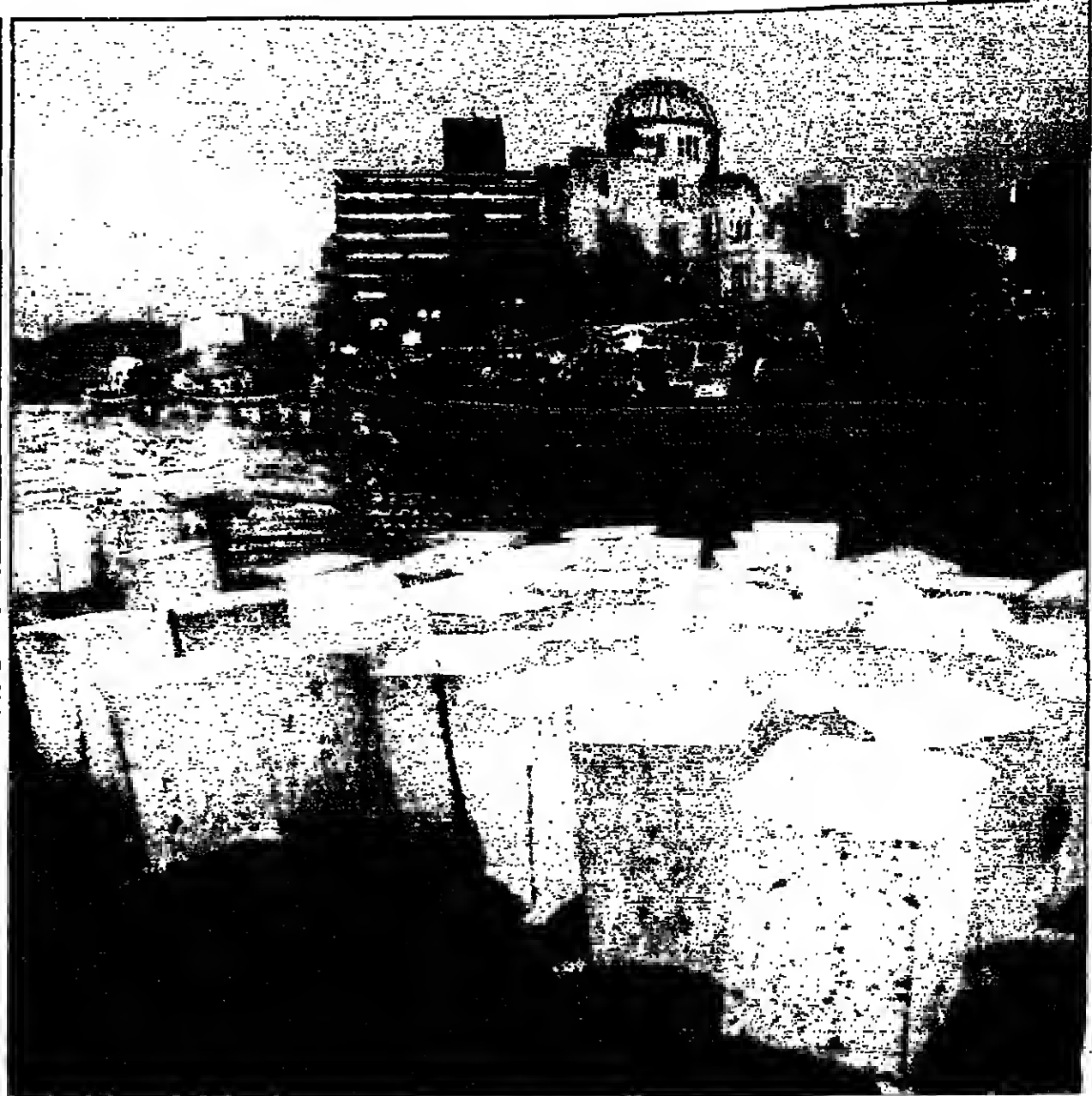
million people across China had been affected by floods in some way.

Although the weather has played its part, officials yesterday also admitted that excessive agricultural cultivation had exacerbated the flood impact. There have been two significant breaches of embankments so far, one in Jiayu county last Saturday and the other in Jinjiang city on Tuesday. Both of these were so-called "protective dykes", built by local farmers behind the main Yangtze dyke in order to keep other water away from

land which was then farmed. Zhou Wenzhi, Vice-Minister for Water Resources, said: "The protective embankments inside the main Yangtze embankment need to be removed in times of major flood, because they occupy land through which the flood water should flow." In the event, the two both collapsed by themselves after serious leaks in their foundations. Thirteen bodies have so far been recovered in Jiayu, but officials did not say if other people were still missing.

As always, the summer floods are seized upon by the government as justification for building the Three Gorges Dam. "If we had the Three Gorges Dam, the levels in the lower reaches of the Yangtze would not be so high, and the situation would not be so urgent. So it is absolutely necessary to have this project," said Mr Zhao.

Opponents of the dam disagree, saying that the on-going construction of the dam has lulled flood officials into a false sense of security, and that restoration work on dykes and embankments has suffered as a result. The dam will not be fully operational for another decade at least.



Paper lanterns begin their silent journey down the Motoyasu River, at the A-Bomb Dome in Hiroshima, marking the 53rd anniversary of the first atom bomb dropped on Japan to end the Second World War Kazuhiro Nogi/AP

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Nigerian repression 'ignored'

BY KATHERINE BUTLER

NIGERIA'S MILITARY rulers have hoodwinked the international community into believing that they are committed to a return to civilian government, one of the country's leading dissidents warned yesterday.

Beko Ransome-Kuti, released in June after three years in detention for alleged treason, warned of the potential for a fresh descent into violence, saying General Abdulsalam Abubakar had already rejected the reforms which would have to precede any transition to democratic elections.

"All the avenues seem closed. I am very pessimistic about the future," he said in an interview with The Independent.

Dr Ransome-Kuti accused western governments of failing to apply sanctions and turning a blind eye to the continued repression in Nigeria for selfish commercial reasons. "They are not concerned about the interests of civilians. As long as their business links are looked after the rest of us can go to the devil," he said.

Prospects for an international oil embargo on Nigeria are remote, in view of American opposition. But Dr Ransome-Kuti said an embargo is the only way to force genuine reform. Limited sanctions were imposed on Nigeria following the execution of the writer and human rights campaigner Ken Saro-Wiwa in 1993, but these are being applied only half-heartedly, said Dr Ransome-Kuti.

The death last month of Moshood Abiola, Nigeria's best-known political prisoner and the presumed winner of 1993 elections was no accident, said Dr Ransome-Kuti, who himself came close to death in jail.

"I blame the military. Abubakar's government could have released him long before. The death was too beneficial to them to be just an accident. They feared his agenda."

Dr Ransome-Kuti believes the generals are creating the impression that they will re-



Dr Ransome-Kuti: 'The repression is still there'

linquish power to lull the international community into complacency. "What we are seeing is a reprieve."

He said General Abubakar is clinging to the discredited constitution fashioned by the former dictator General Sani Abacha and had ruled out opposition demands for a national conference to pave the way to increased autonomy for rival ethnic groups. Dr Ransome-Kuti said the "apparatus of repression" is still fully in place.

Dr Ransome-Kuti, a brother of the late Nigerian musician Fela Kuti, suffered a series of debilitating illnesses during his solitary confinement for three years. He had been convicted of treason for human rights work on behalf of other political prisoners. He was isolated and denied medical attention or visits until he went on hunger strike. "Even then my daughter was allowed to visit only for a few minutes once a month, surrounded by guards."

Dr Ransome-Kuti is returning to Nigeria this weekend after medical treatment in Los Angeles and London. He intends to regroup human rights and opposition activists, and be resigned to the possibility that he could be re-arrested. But he fears further violence. "There are a lot of angry people around. Eventually, they will want to vent that anger," he said.

IN BRIEF

Strike may shut SA car plants

SOUTH AFRICA'S second largest labour union, the National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa, yesterday vowed to press ahead with a planned strike that could shut the nation's car plants today, as calls grew for government action to stem a rash of strikes.

NATO peace exercise planned

FORCES FROM 14 countries, including Britain and Russia, will take part in NATO military exercises in Albania between August 17 and 22 "to develop a common understanding of peace support operations".

Soviet bloc's last dictator dies at 86

TODOR ZHIVKOV, the last surviving strongman of the Soviet Union's Eastern European empire, died on Wednesday night at the age of 86. He had fallen into a coma after being hospitalised on 8 July with a respiratory infection. He had also suffered from diabetes and other ailments in recent months.

Like his former Communist comrades Erich Honecker of East Germany and Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania, Zhivkov believed that he could bend the laws of history to usher in the inevitable workers' paradise.

Instead, like Honecker and Ceausescu, he saw the Communist state he built collapse, and ended his days in ignominy and disgrace, his privileges withdrawn and under investigation for criminal charges.

Loyal until the end to Communism, so service was Zhivkov to Moscow's wishes that he once even proposed that Bulgaria cease to exist as a sovereign state and instead be absorbed into the Soviet Union. Many Bulgarians view his

passing with ambivalence. Time has allowed them to view the decades of dictatorship under his rule with something approaching nostalgia.

Unlike the Central European nations of Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland, Bulgaria, together with its Balkan neighbour Romania, has failed to make a smooth progression from communism to capitalism.

Institutionalised corruption, the seemingly unstoppable onward march of organised crime, the underdevelopment of the necessary political checks

and balances of a Western-style civil society, the heritage of Ottoman and Soviet rule, all these have kept Bulgaria far at the back of the race towards integration into modern Western Europe.

With an average monthly wage of about \$100 (\$80), it's not surprising, say locals, that many, especially among the elderly and poor, look back on the Zhivkov years as a time when life was easier, with a guarantee of work, food and housing.



Young eagle dancers at a four-day conference in Memphis, Tennessee, to honour Kateri Tekakwitha, the first Native American to be beatified

Czechs open old wounds in Germany

IN AN escalating row over reconciliation, the President of the German Parliament has written to the Czech Prime Minister, urging him to withdraw his disparaging remarks about Sudeten Germans.

Sixty years after the infamous Munich agreement, the Sudeten question is as sensitive as ever. German politicians, notably Prime Minister Edmund Stoiber of Bavaria, have threatened to keep the Czechs out of the EU unless they strike a meek tone.

The buttoned-up menswear boss who couldn't be casual

EUROPEAN
TIMES
BONN



A close moment for German cinema-goers, when a loving 'Sie' becomes 'du'

IT IS dangerous to address people with the informal "du" in Germany. Language books printed 30 years ago tell you that the word is confined to children and the intimacy of family life. That is no longer absolutely true, but permission must still be sought before using the explosive pronoun, if one is to avoid complications.

In the wrong hands, and pointed at the wrong target, "du" can cause severe damage to a German's self-esteem. The law clearly states, for instance, that a careless "du" lobbed in the direction of a policeman is an offence punishable by a fine. In the army, an officer assaulting a conscript with "du" may face a court-martial. And, as a shop assistant has just demonstrated, misuse of the word can poison the work environment, sow the seeds of mistrust between friendly nations, and undermine the Constitutional order of the Federal Republic of Germany.

To be fair to Reinhard Weniger, the hero of this tale, he is no mere shop assistant. He has worked hard to get where he is today. Aged 45, Mr Weniger exults in his official title of "Abteilungsleiter" - Department Head. He is ruler of all he surveys at the Rheinisch-Westfälische Textilfabrik, a branch of the Hennes & Mauritz fashion chain, and therefore entitled to a bit of respect. No whipper-snapper should get too familiar, he insists.

"I am not a youngster," the earnest Abteilungsleiter has declared. "Pretending to be a trendy youth is not my style. He is not asking much; merely to be addressed in the formal manner. The trouble is that Mr

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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Building moratorium

The Government's moratorium on the building of further gas-fired power stations could force up electricity prices and stunt competition, the industry regulator said yesterday. Professor Stephen Littlechild, director general of Ofgem, urged ministers to lift the moratorium as soon as possible and operate it flexibly while it was in use. In his reply to the Government's energy review, Professor Littlechild said that allowing gas-fired plants to replace coal-fired stations was "a rational response to environmental constraints and economic realities".

First Leisure sells bingo arm

FIRST LEISURE, the nightclub and resorts group headed by Michael Grade, has completed the sale of its loss-making bingo arm to a management team headed by former Rank bingo chief, Paul Anson, for £38m. The price was higher than that estimated for the bingo arm by First Leisure, which means it will book a small profit. The 26-hall arm lost £2.5m last year.

Pensions blow on divorce

Divorcees who split pensions on divorce will be blocked from rebuilding their retirement savings, the government was warned yesterday. As the government closed a consultation on draft laws for pension splitting, the National Association of Pension Funds said there was a crucial flaw in the bill caused by Inland Revenue rules. "It would not be unusual for pension scheme members to lose 50 per cent or more of their entitlement on divorce and only be able to make good a small percentage of the loss," the NAPF said. It added this meant the bill no longer allowed for a proper "clean break".

Robert Walters looks to Europe

Robert Walters, the recruitment group, is looking to buy IT recruitment firms in continental Europe and Australia in an attempt to plug the growing shortage of IT skills in the UK. Robert Walters, chief executive, said the group was interested in entering overseas markets but was also keen to send contractors from those countries to the UK. He added it is looking for targets worth between £10m and £30m, employing at least 300 contractors. He was speaking as Robert Walters reported a 26 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £4.1m on turnover up 95 per cent to £72m.

Sterling plummets as Bank keeps rates on hold

STERLING HIT a two-month low yesterday after the Bank of England decided to keep interest rates on hold at 7.5 per cent.

Bonds rose as dealers speculated that the next move in UK interest rates would be down. Jonathan Loyne, at HSBC Securities, said: "If the MPC had wanted to raise rates today - and some members almost certainly did - it had a number of perfectly reasonable excuses. The fact that a majority of members chose not to therefore suggests that there is a very good chance that rates have now peaked."

BY LEA PATERSON

However, not all analysts agreed that June's rate rise was the last, warning that the Monetary Policy Committee had wrong-footed the experts before. Economists speculated that the MPC was swayed by a raft of gloomy business surveys released over the past month, as well as growing signs of a slowdown in UK services. Yesterday saw the release of yet another downturn business survey, which revealed that retail sales growth in July was the slowest for three years.

The Confederation of British Industry distributive trades survey found that 37 per cent of retailers reported increased sales last month compared with the corresponding period last year, while 31 per cent said sales were down. This means a positive net balance of just 6 per cent of retailers reported a sales increase in July, compared to 19 per cent in June and 25 per cent in May.

Alastair Epton, chairman of the CBI's distributive trades survey panel, said: "The further slowdown in retail sales growth suggest that consumers have been discouraged by a combination of high interest rates and bad weather."

The weakness of the survey surprised the City, which had been expecting a more gradual slowdown in the growth of retail sales. Simon Briscoe, of Nikko Europe, said: "The boom of the last two years is now consigned to the history books."

The consensus view in the City was that base rates have peaked, and sterling fell by more than a penny to close at DM2.887. The September long gilt future rose 0.32 to 109.7.

The MPC gave no indication of why it decided to hold rates or whether rates were now high enough, although the Bank of England will provide a detailed assessment of the outlook for inflation next week, when it releases its quarterly inflation report. As rates were not raised yesterday, analysts are now expecting a benign inflation report, and predicted that the Bank's predictions for economic growth would be gloomy.

However, several economists refused to rule out another rate rise, saying that the MPC had surprised on the upside before. Sharda Persaud, of Paribas, said: "We had a benign inflation report in May, and the MPC hiked [rates] in June."

Michael Saunders, at Salomon Smith Barney, said: "If the pound now falls sharply then the MPC may have to reconsider its view."

Separately yesterday, the Department of the Environment said housing starts were down 11 per cent in the second quarter and construction new orders were down 4 per cent, adding to the evidence of economic slowdown. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said new car registrations rose slightly in July, up 5.1 per cent to 37,896.

Outlook, page 17

Allow BA to sell runway slots, says OFT

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

THE Office of Fair Trading yesterday urged the Government to override Brussels and allow British Airways to sell take-off and landing slots at Heathrow airport in return for approval for its link with American Airlines.

The advice runs directly counter to the ruling last month from the European Competition Commissioner, Karel Van Miert, and could put the new Trade and Industry Secretary, Peter Mandelson, on a collision course with Brussels.

Mr Van Miert ruled BA and American should be forced to give up 367 slots at Heathrow and Gatwick to rival airlines without compensation.

However, in his advice to Mr Mandelson, the Director General of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman, said that the slots have "a substantial monetary value" and that it would be "reasonable to allow the alliance to recoup that value on disposal".

Industry estimates value the slots at about £500m.

Brussels maintains the sale of slots is illegal under EU rules. But Mr Bridgeman said it was unclear whether this was the case and a decision by Mr Mandelson under article 85 of the Treaty of Rome "could override the EC regulation for the purposes of promoting competition by expressly allowing sale".

According to the OFT, selling the slots would be a more efficient way of allocating them among rival airlines. Although the Commission did indicate that some of the slots could become available under the normal slot allocation process, the OFT says that "a significant proportion" of the total will have to come direct from the alliance.

Mr Mandelson has put the OFT's advice to consultation for four weeks before taking a decision. He stressed that his responsibility for the Millennium Dome, towards which BA is contributing £8m, would in no way influence his decision. "I have considered my position very carefully in relation to BA and, after taking advice from the Permanent Secretary of my department on the legal position, I am satisfied that I can exercise my responsibilities properly in respect of what remains to be done in this case."

Outlook, page 17



China may be heading for an ice-cream war as Haagen Dazs opens its shop in Peking yesterday to add to the one it already has in Shanghai. The Diageo subsidiary's product is competing with Baskin Robbins

Reed Elsevier to scrap twin boards

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

REED ELSEVIER, the Anglo-Dutch publishing group, yesterday unveiled a boardroom shake-up in which its two co-chairmen will make way for a new chief executive recruited from outside the company.

Meanwhile, the company hinted that it could abandon its listed structure, in which holding companies quoted in London and Amsterdam hold roughly equal shares in an operating company.

Reed is to scrap its twin board structure where Reed International and Elsevier, the English and Dutch holding companies, each appoint two

executives to Reed Elsevier's board. In its place Reed will create a single board.

Morris Tabakshist, now chairman and chief executive of the Dutch arm of Unilever, the consumer goods group, will take over as chairman after Reed's annual meeting in April next year.

The board will also have one chief executive. However, in a surprise move Nigel Stapleton and Herman Bruggink, Reed's executive co-chairmen, said they would not be putting their names forward for the job.

Mr Stapleton said the decision to stand down had been a personal one. "If one was to put one's name forward one would have to make a commitment for some years going forward," he said, adding that he had spent 12 years at Reed after 18 years with Unilever. He stressed he had not made plans to leave Reed and would be staying until a new chief executive arrived.

Mr Bruggink is believed to have decided that, with a Dutch chairman, Reed's chief executive should be of a different nationality.

Analysts suggested that Mr Bruggink and Mr Stapleton may have fallen out. "I really got the feeling the personal chemistry wasn't great at all," one said. Another predicted that both would leave Reed once the new structure was in place.

But Mr Stapleton strongly denied that there had been any clash between himself and Mr Bruggink. He added that, after a period of intense corporate activity, Reed needed someone with marketing skills to take the business forward.

"There are unlikely to be any more divestments," he said. "It's more a question of building the company and getting the most out of its portfolio."

S&N to offer cash-back in 500 of its pubs

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

THE AGE-OLD problem of having to leave the pub because you have run out of cash to buy any more drinks could become a thing of the past as a result of a new plan announced yesterday.

The pubs group, Scottish & Newcastle, is to offer a "cash back" facility in more than 500 of its outlets, claiming that it will be the first retail group outside of Marks & Spencer and the major supermarket chains to do so.

The service will be available in all S&N's branded outlets, which include Chief & Brewer, John Barras & Co and the Rat & Parrot chains.

Cash-strapped punters in need of further refreshment only need to wave the magic plastic to receive more beer money - up to a maximum amount of £50.

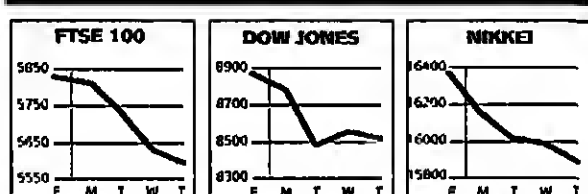
"Pub-goers of the 1990s are more demanding than ever," the company says in backing its decision. "They have seen improvements in service in the other retail sectors and they expect the same standard in pubs."

However, the plan was immediately criticised by the campaigning group Alcohol Concern, which said it would lead to people over-spending on drink.

"It is always a worry if people can get access to cash in situations where they might have drunk too much," a spokeswoman for Alcohol Concern said.

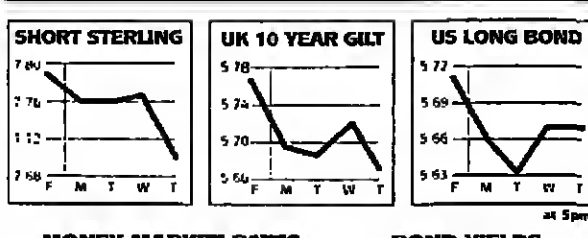
"A lot will depend on the training of the bar staff."

STOCK MARKETS



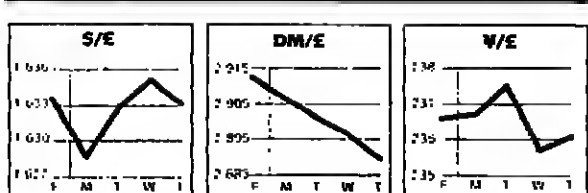
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5524.10	-38.40	-0.68	6183.70	4382.80	3.73
FTSE 250	5311.00	-10.50	-0.20	5970.90	4428.30	3.77
FTSE 350	2700.00	-16.10	-0.59	2969.10	2141.80	3.74
FTSE All Share	2628.50	-14.90	-0.56	2886.52	2106.39	3.72
FTSE SmallCap	2413.30	-1.90	-0.08	2791.80	2188.10	3.49
FTSE Fledgling	1320.20	-0.30	-0.02	1517.10	1235.70	3.56
FTSE AIM	1041.40	-0.10	-0.01	1146.90	965.90	3.22
FTSE EBLX 100	1010.69	-15.45	-1.51			
Dow Jones	8518.21	-23.34	-0.28	9367.84	6971.32	1.73
Nikkei	15876.22	-115.94	-0.73	19772.18	14488.21	0.96
Hang Seng	7254.36	-212.07	-2.84	16820.31	7351.68	5.63
Dax	5517.64	-114.87	-2.04	6217.83	3487.24	2.91

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	7.75	0.96	7.76	0.20	5.67	-1.38	5.35	-1.61
US	5.69	-0.03	5.78	-0.25	5.43	-0.78	5.67	-0.81
10 year	0.45	0.05	0.66	-0.07	1.51	-0.82	2.06	-0.87
Germany	5.51	0.24	3.30	0.20	4.59	-1.09	5.21	-1.17

CURRENCIES



Index	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago	Index	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6335	-0.17	1.8018	Sterling	0.6122	-0.05p	0.6243
D.Mark	2.8902	-0.51p	3.0086	Mark	1.7673	-0.45p	1.8805
Yen	236.06	+0.02p	190.14	Yen	144.33	+0.11	118.56
E index	104.00	0.00	103.90	Silver	113.90	0.00	106.50

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	12.05	0.16	19.23	GDP	115.60	2.60	112.45
Gold (\$)	287.95	0.00	318.55	RPI	163.40	3.70	157.57
Silver (\$)	5.42	-0.05	4.34	Base Rates	7.50	6.75	

www.bloomberg.com/uk

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.6027	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.26
Austria (schillings)	19.73	Netherlands (guilder)	3.1671
Belgium (francs)	57.98	New Zealand (\$)	3.0412
Canada (\$)	2.4197	Norway (krone)	12.04
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8229	Portugal (escudos)	284.07
Denmark (krone)	10.78	Saudi Arabia (riyal)	5.9568
Finland (markka)	8.5918	Singapore (\$)	2.6948
France (francs)	9.4127	Spain (pesetas)	237.97
Germany (marks)	2.8174	South Africa (rand)	9.5555
Greece (drachma)	465.23	Sweden (krone)	12.70
Hong Kong (\$)	12.28	Switzerland (franc)	2.3766
Ireland (pounds)	1.1119	Thailand (baht)	60.85
Indian (rupees)	63.82	Turkey (lira)	4272.44
Israel (shekels)	5.5039	USA (\$)	1.5869
Italy (lira)	2784		
Japan (yen)	231.96		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.4745		
Malta (lira)	0.6155		

Source: Thomas Cook

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

PEGGED INTEREST rates helped lift shares off their low points with the Footsie closing 38.4 points down at 5,594.1. At one time it was off \$5.6. It was the first time the index had closed below 5,600 since February. Supporting shares also gave ground. The market was rattled by poor second quarter figures from Shell. The oil giant, off 26.5p to 358p, dragged British Petroleum down 10p to 771p and Enterprise Oil 20p to 464p. Compass, the contract caterer, suffered a 62p fall to 538p.

Derek Pain, page 21

NEW YORK

IN NEW YORK, the Dow industrials saw-sawed again in choppy afternoon trade as worried investors stepped back to determine if the blue chip sell-off had fully run its course. By 7.15pm BST the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 13.85 points at 8560.43, having fallen 50 points in the first 30 minutes of trade. In the past three weeks the Dow has fallen about 9 per cent. Analysts believe there is more room on the downside for the index, which has soared more than 120 per cent in three and a half years.

TOKYO

WORRIES THAT Hong Kong might abandon its sacrosanct peg to the US dollar and China might also devalue its currency caused a sell-off of bank stocks in Tokyo and helped to lower the Nikkei index 115.94 points to 15,876.22. Selling was also stimulated by rumours that a big commercial bank was saddled with huge losses on equity-linked derivatives. Most big banks came under pressure with the Bank of Tokyo - Mitsubishi losing 61 to 1,279, Fuji Bank 19 to 478, Sanitomo 46 to 1,233 and Tokai Bank 30 to 684.

HONG KONG

HONG KONG stocks fell to their lowest level since January 1995 under pressure from rising local bank rates, a weaker yen and poor company figures. The Hang Seng index fell 212 points to 7,254.36. The yen tested its June low of 146 against the dollar, adding to fears that the weakness of the yen might persuade China to devalue the yuan and Hong Kong to devalue its dollar. China intervened to support the yuan for the second time in a week and has often said it will not

MOSCOW

SHARE PRICES in Russia closed sharply lower as investors continued to shun equities despite government efforts to bring order to its finances and shift the focus of its borrowing away from the depressed domestic market. The main RTS index closed at 137.88, down 3.8 per cent and just points off a previous two-year low set last month. Traders said domestic considerations in general and the persistently high yields on government bonds in particular, are continuing to impact stock prices.

- 1 Did you have any... with President's father?
- 2 Which is true: you... with President's father?
- 3 Why were you... with President's father?
- 4 What did you... with President's father?
- 5 Why were you... with President's father?
- 6 What did you... with President's father?
- 7 Why did you... with President's father?
- 8 What did you... with President's father?
- 9 Why did you... with President's father?
- 10 What did you... with President's father?

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Drama to come in MPC soap opera

THE Threadneedle Street soap opera otherwise known as the Monetary Policy Committee now has its very own clique. In the real thing, these are members of the audience drawn together in a highly organised unit and paid to clap loudly or boo and hiss as they see fit. In the case of the MPC's monthly interest rate meetings, the clique consists of an unlikely collection of industrialists, trade unions and engineering trade associations.

The climax to the MPC's latest two day performance has kept the clique bappy. Interest rates have stayed put. But it is not content with that. It will be in the audience again next month and this time the noises off will be designed to produce a cut in rates.

The markets also suspect that the next movement will be down. Sterling slipped below DM2.90 yesterday to close at its lowest for three months and bonds rose. The markets are betting that next week's Bank of England inflation report will paint a relatively benign picture on inflation, even though it need to factor in the impact of the Chancellor's new spending plans and the National Minimum Wage.



OUTLOOK

This is a cosy scenario and one calculated to bring a warm glow to the cheeks of the most embattled exporter. It may be premature, however, to suppose we have seen the peak of the interest rate cycle.

The last time the Bank concluded that the outlook on prices was benign, in its May inflation report, sterling promptly dove and inflation was sucked back into the system through increased import prices.

That, together with a sharp rise in earnings, tipped the balance and persuaded the MPC to lift rates in June. On the that basis, one further rise in rates before the end

of the year should not be ruled out, however much noise the clique makes.

Strictly a game for mugs

ENGLISH FOOTBALL has a lot in common with biotechnology and mining exploration, though its fans might hotly deny it. It is a rich industry, with growing turnover, spending and prospects. But it squanders most of it on a mad scramble for success, which means membership of the Premier League, ever-growing wages and transfer fees.

A dozen clubs have floated on the stock market over the past 18 months, but they have been in a bear market for all that period. Only a handful have bucked the trend - Manchester United, with its amazing success on the field and grip on costs, Charlton, which achieved a surprise promotion to the Premier League, and Sunderland, which seems set to follow. The rest have crashed ominously in price.

It is not surprising when you look at Deloitte Touche's Annual Review of Football Finance. It shows that

in 1996-97 English Football Inc enjoyed revenue of £676m, up from £517m. But players' earnings and transfer fees took most of it. The net result was losses of £42.7m, down from £98m previously.

Out of 92 clubs in four leagues only 29 made any profits and Manchester, with a sparkling £27.5m earnings, is way out in front. The Big Five, Manchester, Newcastle, Blackburn, Liverpool and Tottenham, make more profit than all the rest put together. But they cannot stay on top for ever and Deloitte Touche believes 10-20 clubs are in danger. It sees mergers and partnerships as ways for clubs to survive and prosper.

Football may be a game of two halves but in the end there can be only one winner. That makes it unlike any other sector of the market. Small investors should leave the field to those with deeper pockets.

A few dome thoughts

THE SECRETARY of State for Trade and Industry, Peter Mandelson would like to make a

statement about the British Airways/American Airlines alliance. But before that, he wishes to make a rather longer statement about his role in the Millennium Dome.

It has been suggested in some quarters that, as sole shareholder of the New Millennium Experience Company, Mr Mandelson might face conflicts of interest.

On the one hand, he has responsibility for determining mergers and competition policy. On the other he has responsibility for the construction, delivery and operation of the Millennium Experience at Greenwich. This entails working closely with private sector sponsors, or to put it more crudely, tapping them for money.

It is not inconceivable that in his dual role Mr Mandelson will be required to rule on mergers involving companies who may have contributed to the dome financially. In point of fact, one such donor is BA, which has coughed up in the region of £6m.

Mr Mandelson would like to make it crystal clear, however, that in carrying out his functions as SoS he will in no way be influ-

enced by offers of support for the Dome. Insofar as the BA alliance is concerned, the Permanent Secretary has checked the legal position and cleared me to make the ruling.

Now, where were we? Ah yes, the BA/AA alliance. Mr Mandelson has received advice from the Director General of Fair Trading, that he should override the European Commission and allow the alliance to sell 267 take-off and landing slots at Heathrow and Gatwick. We understand they are worth in the region of £500m.

We are now inviting views on the DG's advice. We know it's a tough one but what do you think Mr Mandelson should do?

Reed learns the lessons

WHEN IT comes to shaking up senior management, Reed Elsevier has clearly learnt a thing or two in the past four years.

The revelation yesterday that Herman Bruggink and Nigel Stapleton, its Anglo-Dutch chief executive's double act, were to

step back to be replaced by an as yet unchosen outsider could hardly have passed more smoothly.

On both sides of the North Sea, investors received the changes with little more than a raised eyebrow. It was a world away from 1994, when Peter Davis sent share prices spinning when he stomped out of Reed's boardroom after losing a power struggle with his Dutch opposite number.

Reed's spin doctors have come up with lots of good explanations for this one. The five year old merger has been so successful - so the argument goes - that the English and Dutch camps no longer need separate boards to make sure they're not being legged over by the other lot.

Messrs Bruggink and Stapleton are good at buying and selling businesses, but what Reed really needs now is someone with marketing skills.

Mr Stapleton has his own reasons for stepping back: after a career straddling Amsterdam and London, first with Unilever, then with Reed, he wants to have a shot at something else. How about a job with Shell?



Peter Kindersley will drop the chief executive role to focus on product ideas and motivation Chris Laurens

Dorling's new chief will drive for growth

DORLING KINDERSLEY, the publisher of illustrated reference and educational books, is splitting the role of its chairman and chief executive, Peter Kindersley, and losing its managing director, Rod Hare, after a rough two years punctuated by four profits warnings.

After looking around for nine months with the help of headhunters, the chairman and leading shareholder, Peter Kindersley, is dropping the chief executive role in favour of a wibbly marketing man, James Middlehurst, 41, who has been managing director of Polygram's Britannia Music arm for the past five years. Mr Middlehurst drove Britannia's sales up fivefold from £40m to £200m.

The appointment has clarified the position of Rod Hare, 37, who "didn't feel that a new

BY TREVOR WEBSTER

chief executive and managing director could co-exist." He is leaving in September with a pay-off of around £260,000. Mr Hare said had "been with Dorling for 11 years and has been thinking about a change of direction".

Mr Kindersley, who has had to announce two successive setbacks in profits, from £12.9m to £7.7m in 1996/97 and from £6.7m to £4m in the first half of this year, says that at 57 he is ready to step back from day-to-day management.

He will concentrate on creative product ideas, motivating staff around the world and looking outside the company at the marketplace. Mr Middlehurst will be in charge of day-to-day management and strategy.



James Middlehurst: marketing expertise

The board said they appeared to have found "the ideal man to drive the business forward in growth mode". In addition to his job at Britannia, Mr Middlehurst ran Time-Life Books' UK operations between

1983 and 1987 and was marketing chief at Magnet from 1987 to 1989 and at Allied Irish Banks from 1989 to 1993.

Dorling lost its finance director and head of US operations last year when it was hit by the strong pound and slow growth in America. It took a hit of £2.5m when it axed 280 jobs in London, but said it would make annual savings of £3.5m as a result.

Dorling Kindersley shares edged up by 0.5p to 216.5p on the news of the boardroom shake-up. They have fallen back from a peak of 306.5p last October, despite forecasts by stockbrokers of a second-half recovery after cost-cutting that is expected to revive profits from £7.7m to £8.8m in the year to June.

The results will be announced in mid-September.

Barclays shares slip 3% as results disappoint the City

A LACKLUSTRE set of first-half results from Barclays Bank caused its shares to slip by 3 per cent yesterday.

Pre-tax profits at the bank increased from £1.27bn to £1.29bn in the six months to June, roughly in line with expectations. However, analysts were concerned about cost control, and said the figures compared unfavourably with those of National Westminster Bank.

Earlier this week, NatWest surprised the City with a 49 per cent rise in pre-tax profits. Yesterday, NatWest shares gained 35p, closing at 1,175p, while Barclays shares lost 40p, closing at 1,653p.

Andrew Burton, the Barclays chairman, said the bank had made "good underlying progress". It spent £400m on

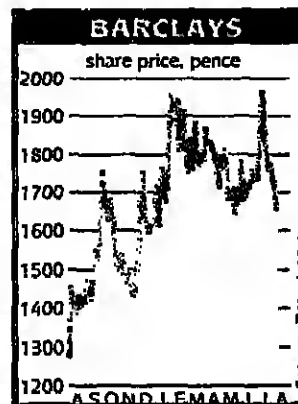
BY LEA PATERSON

share buybacks in the first half of the year, and expects to continue its buyback programme next year.

Kathryn Newton, banking analyst at Rabobank, said: "The market was expecting something a bit more exciting and a better performance on costs."

Operating expenses at Barclays fell by 2.5 per cent to £2.4bn. After stripping out discontinued businesses - including the former BZW equities business - operating expenses rose by 6 per cent.

Martin Taylor, Barclays' chief executive, said the bank had significantly increased its investment spend and would take a close look at costs once EMU and year 2000 computer



Martin Taylor: Barclays will tackle costs issue

compliance issues were out of the way. The bank increased had debt provisions from £90m to £129m, and Mr Taylor warned that the UK economy was in a "delicate state". Barclays was well placed to

participate in industry consolidation, said Mr Taylor, adding that economic downturn could lead to bank mergers. The interim dividend was increased by 15 per cent to 15.5p a share.



ANOTHER YEAR OF DOUBLE DIGIT PROFIT GROWTH AND EXCELLENT SHAREHOLDER RETURNS AT HEINZ

Annualized total return of 21.3% over the past 5 years

Fiscal 1998 was a great success as Project Millennia, our reorganization program, created new growth and profit opportunities around the world. Through innovation, productivity improvements and investing in our brands, we achieved the following results. Sales for the year grew 4.5%, excluding the impact of foreign exchange and acquisitions net of divestitures. Earnings per share were up 11.4% - compared to a base of \$1.93 - to \$2.15 per share. Our gross profit margin was 38.4%, up from 36.0% last year. Heinz's recent expansion into India, Central and Eastern Europe and South Africa continues to attract new consumers for our brands. At the same time, there is an increasing focus on managing the company through its eight core business categories of ketchup & sauces, frozen foods, foodservice, convenience meals, pet products, tuna, infant foods and weight control.

The Heinz management team is focused on delivering superior shareholder value. This means realizing ambitious, but realistic, performance goals including: consistent 10-12% annual EPS growth; 4-5% volume growth; gross profit margins of more than 40%; and world-class 'value chain' status from procurement to manufacturing to distribution.

The achievement of these goals is the key to greater shareholder return and a dynamic future for Heinz as the most dependable growth and performance company in the global food industry.



Anthony J.F. O'Reilly
Chairman



William R. Johnson
President and Chief Executive Officer

The above is extracted from the statement to shareholders of HJ Heinz Company for the year to 29 April, 1998

Oil price fall wipes 17% off Shell profit

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

SHARES IN Shell slumped to their lowest level for more than a year yesterday, wiping nearly £2bn from its market value, after the Anglo-Dutch oil group reported a steep fall in second-quarter profits.

Shell, the world's largest oil company, said a sharp drop in the price of crude in the period was behind a 17 per cent slump in profits to £1.54bn (£940m) from £1.90bn in the period a year ago. A slowdown in demand in Asia after the region's economic turmoil was also to blame, the company said. The profit downturn surprised the City, which had pre-

dicted figures of between £1.59bn and £1.86bn, and sent the shares into free fall. They closed down 6.93 per cent at 356p, with more than 49 million shares traded.

"The quality of these figures is poor, and the company has a great deal of work to do to get these numbers up," said Jurgen Linshof, an analyst with Credit Lyonnais Securities.

Shell said that, with oil prices at their lowest for more than a decade, the figures were to be expected. Maarten van den Bergh, the president, said he was not unsatisfied, and added: "The industry, and we too, have headwinds against us, but we remain on course."

Towers is leader of Concentric buyout

JOHN TOWERS, the former chief executive of Rover who left the car maker amid rumours of a rift with its German owners BMW, yesterday emerged as the leader of a £27m management buyout of the car parts maker Concentric, writes Francesco Guerrera.

Mr Towers, chief executive of the Midlands-based company, is heading a group of directors who yesterday launched a recommended 160p-a-share cash offer, aimed at taking Concentric private.

The price is a 49 per cent premium on the close on 7 May when Concentric revealed it was in bid talks. Yesterday the shares rose 14p to 157.5p.

The management team, which also includes Ron Hickman, the financial director, and Roger Miles, the company secretary, is backed by NatWest Equity Partners. The group has secured approval from the non-executive directors and other investors holding a total 38.8 per cent of the shares.

Concentric, which supplies diesel pumps and moulded plastic components to car and truck makers, posted a pre-tax loss of £3.9m last year on turnover of £150.1m.

Mr Towers left Rover in June 1996. He has always denied that he was ousted by the Germans. He moved to Concentric three months later.

THE INDEPENDENT
Friday 7 August 1998

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Floods and ice push insurer down

BY ANDREW VERITY

ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE yesterday resisted pressure from shareholders to carry out a merger or acquisition as it posted a 39 per cent drop in half-year profits.

The insurer's results revealed the toll of April's floods and the ice storm in Canada, which contributed to a £114m jump in underwriting losses. Operating profit slid from £501m to £305m - close to the bottom of City expectations.

Bob Mendelsohn, the chief executive, admitted that it had been a "very bad" first half. Stiff competition brought down rates on some commercial lines by 30 per cent. Premiums in the UK reduced by 2 per cent as volumes fell. Together with unusual underwriting losses, this had a heavy impact on earnings: earnings per share were down to 14.5p from 23.5p.

Royal & SunAlliance is under pressure from institutional shareholders to enter into a deal to solve its current growth problems. City analysts are still concerned that its focus is too much on organic growth.

Mr Mendelsohn said: "We are certainly looking at mergers and acquisitions but we are only going to do it on a very sensible basis. It is too soon to say whether the current stock market decline will bring prices back to a more sensible environment where we can get what we want. I don't feel any pressure to do a deal."

"We have turned away unprofitable business, and we have

not completed acquisitions at uneconomic prices to achieve growth for its own sake."

The company is preparing to ditch the name Royal & SunAlliance in some of its businesses as part of its drive to improve its appeal overseas. "The brand is a great brand for commercial insurance and it's well-known in the English-speaking world. But the honest truth is that it is a terrible brand for personal lines in some parts of the world because it is unpronounceable," said Mr Mendelsohn. "Japanese and Chinese people can't pronounce it and if someone says: 'Hi, this is Royal & Sun Alliance, how can we help you?' it takes up too much time."

Mr Mendelsohn said he was seeking to improve the company's underwriting disciplines, but this would take time. "I'm a manager, not a miracle worker... there are underwriting actions that any insurance company can take to improve the positioning of its book of business, but they take years, not months."

The insurer is also planning to dispose of some "non-core assets". It is already buying small "bolt-on" acquisitions in smaller markets such as New Zealand, Belgium and Peru.

The company last month backed the purchase by Kohlberg Kravis Roberts of Willis Corroon, the global insurance broker in a deal worth £851m. Royal & SunAlliance joined four other insurers and security companies in taking up a 19 per cent stake.



April's floods in England contributed to an increase of £114m in underwriting losses and a profit fall for Royal & SunAlliance

... but the rain fails to sink Wyevale's rising profit

WYEVALE GARDEN CENTRES, the biggest company selling plants, bulbs and garden appliances from out-of-town retail parks, managed to smile through the bad weather of April and June to lift its half-year profits by 9 per cent to £7.2m.

Sales rose by 18.6 per cent to

BY TREVOR WEBSTER

£42m on a volume increase of 4 per cent, but price promotions and a shift of product mix reduced gross margins.

The board, led by chairman Brian Evans, said Easter was "a washout" with flooding in many parts of the country, and

June was one of the wettest on record. But May was good, with sales up 30 per cent and strong sales of lower-margin "indoor products". Sales of barbecues, houseplants, books and giftware helped offset lower sales of high-margin "core outdoor products" such as plants, bulbs and seeds.

Boosting the half-year dividend by 10.1 per cent to 4.57p, the company said it was bullish about the current half-year period due to rising sales in July and the warmer weather so far this month.

Wyevale - like its quoted rival Country Gardens earlier this week - brought forward its

figures by a month after its shares slid from a peak 320p in March on speculation of a trading setback due to the weather. Profit warnings had already come from garden hose group Hozelock and Flying Flowers. The move appears to have succeeded in reassuring the market, as Wyevale's shares

recovered 17.5p to 255p yesterday and Country Gardens perked up 4.5p to 194p.

Wyevale, which has a 3 per cent share of the fragmented garden centre business, against Country Gardens' 1.5 per cent, has a policy of adding new outlets through acquisition and expanding older outlets. In

March it bought Great Gardens of England, including Syon Park garden centre, and says its progress has been good.

Wyevale's house broker, BT Alex Brown, is looking for profits of £9.8m this year, followed by £11.1m in 1998/99. The forecast puts its shares at 252p on 14.7 times prospective earnings.

Zeneca suffers a £112m triple blow Cable leaders target Net

A "TRIPLE WHAMMY" of sterling strength, the Asian crisis and the year 2000 computer bug bedeviled Zeneca's first-half profits, the pharmaceutical group revealed yesterday.

The factors were behind a 2 per cent slide in interim pre-tax profits to £564m despite a 5 per cent rise in sales to £2,900m, the drugs group said. The interim dividend rose to 14p per share from 13.5p a year ago.

A worse-than-expected hit from sterling accounted for most of the downturn, cutting profits by £81m compared with

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

City predictions of a £55m impact. After stripping out the effect of sterling, profits had risen 10 per cent with sales up by 11 per cent, said Zeneca.

The maker of best-selling drugs such as the asthma treatment Accolate and the hypertension compound Zestril warned that sterling would be a major factor for the rest of the year, and forecast a £110m currency loss for the whole of 1998.

The drugs group, the focus of takeover speculation in the

past 12 months, said the year 2000 computer problem was responsible for a further £20m blow. Millennium compliance costs would total £45m in 1998. The slowdown in the South-east Asian economies wiped a further £11m off group profits.

"Currency effects and the Year 2000 in total accounted for more than £100m [in lost profits] and affected all of the group's key financial figures," Sir David Barnes, the chief executive, said. But he said the company's underlying earnings were growing at a healthy

rate and Zeneca was on course to meet its target of 15 per cent yearly profit growth.

Sir David dismissed talk of a takeover, saying the company had received no approaches. Several drug giants, including Astra of Sweden, have been linked with the British group.

The company is close to receive US regulatory approval for its cancer treatment, Nolvadex, to be used in the prevention of breast cancer.

The shares closed 18p up at 2,280p.

Investment column, page 21

THE COUNTRY'S three leading cable operators are considering joining forces to launch a national Internet service provider to cash in on growing demand for Internet access.

Telewest, the third-largest group, yesterday said it was in talks with rivals NTL and Cable & Wireless Communications about launching the service.

"There is the possibility of a separately-branded Internet service which would allow us to share costs, expertise and brands," said Charles Burdick, Telewest's finance director.

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

Like its rivals, Telewest is preparing to launch high-speed Internet services early next year. The service, to be carried over TV cables rather than phone wires, will connect users to the Internet up to 100 times faster than a normal phone line.

Telewest is negotiating a deal with At Home and Road Runner, the US Internet groups, to provide content for its Internet service.

The company is also understood to be close to naming a

chief executive to replace Stephen Davidson, who left following the group's merger with General Cable this year. Telewest is thought to want a British national in the job.

Telewest reported that sales in the half to June grew by 25 per cent to £226m. Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation trebled to £54.3m. But higher interest payments meant kept Telewest in the red, with a pre-tax loss of £141.6m compared to a loss of £142m the previous year. The shares jumped 7p to 160.5p.

IN BRIEF

OECD optimistic on Germany

THE ORGANISATION for Economic Co-operation and Development yesterday published an upbeat assessment of German economic prospects.

The OECD said the German economy should grow by 2.7 per cent this year and 2.9 per cent in 1999 after emerging from a phase of painful restructuring. However, it warned that Germany could struggle to get unemployment down.

The Federal Labour Office said the number of Germans without work rose slightly in July but the increase was smaller than in previous years, signalling an improved job market.

Shops project

PROPERTY GROUP Capital Shopping Centres has bought a 9.5-acre site in Uxbridge to be developed with a 420,000-square foot shopping centre. The £150m development will include a department store, 75 shops and a seven-screen cinema.

The company reported a 17 per cent rise in first-half pre-tax profits to £42.6m. The property portfolio is now worth £2.1bn, up 7 per cent from the end of 1997.

Call for referral

A REGIONAL committee of the water industry regulator Ofwat has called for the recent takeover bid of Wessex Water by US energy group Enron to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The director-general of Ofwat later said that the regional committee's views did not necessarily reflect those of the central organisation which itself had not recommended a referral.

McKeecknie sells

McKECKNIE, the engineering and plastics group, has sold its Australian and New Zealand arm in a management buyout for £55m cash. The businesses being sold earned £12.2m in the year to July 1997.

The interests being sold include McKeecknie Metals in Australia and New Zealand, the plastics-forming business, Flexicor, the compressed air products company, Jamec-Pen, and the Regency shower screen and wardrobe business.

Lehman post

THE US investment bank Lehman Brothers has appointed Simon Stockwell head of European audit and compliance. Mr Stockwell, who was previously at the Financial Services Authority, would be responsible for "all regulatory aspects of the firm's business across Europe," the bank said.

The test Japan's leaders must pass

IT HAS ALREADY been very much a baptism of fire for the newly appointed Prime Minister of Japan, the 61-year-old Keizo Obuchi. Mr Obuchi has taken over from Ryutaro Hashimoto, who resigned immediately after the Liberal Democratic Party's dreadful performance in the 12 July Upper House elections. He is Japan's sixth PM since Bill Clinton became US President back in 1992.

The LDP's poor showing in the July elections means that it is now significantly short of a majority in the Upper House, and will need to rely on the support of minor parties such as the Komei Party in order to get key legislation through the Diet (the Japanese Parliament) in coming months.

This will be no easy task: the Democratic Party of Japan currently has a very popular leader, Naoto Kan, and his party is beginning to represent far more effective opposition to the LDP than they have at any time in recent years.

Mr Obuchi's ascension as LDP leader and then Prime Minister was not as smooth as it normally is with these appointments. Because of the depth of concern shown by the electorate in the state of the economy, some of the LDP's newer and younger members pushed for a more reform-minded candidate. But Mr Obuchi ultimately won the leadership contest fairly comfortably.

Financial markets were initially hesitant about the prospect of Mr Obuchi becoming the next PM. His background is very much administrative, he is not especially literate in economic



BRONWYN CURTIS

Frustration could easily build over the slow pace of reform. Obuchi needs to find answers quickly

or financial affairs, and his consensual style was regarded as inappropriate for Japan's parlous economic circumstances.

Mr Obuchi has attempted to address these concerns in recent weeks. During the leadership campaign, he presented the most coherent set of policies of the three leadership candidates, including the promise of rapid action to deal with banking sector problems, ¥6 trillion (£250bn) in tax cuts, a ¥10 trillion supplementary budget package, and postponement of the fiscal reform law implemented by Mr Hashimoto which had prevented earlier fiscal expansion.

The new PM also promised to appoint experts to the various Cabinet posts, rather than the traditional LDP approach of following factional dictates, and he has been true to his word, which has won plaudits from the corporate sector.

One of Mr Obuchi's key appointments was Kichi Miyazawa as Finance Minister. Initially reluctant to accept the post, partly because of both his age (he is

78) and his health, Mr Miyazawa finally relented.

He brings immense experience to the position, having commenced his career at the Ministry of Finance back in 1942: he was Finance Minister for two years from 1986-88, and Prime Minister from 1991-93. Although financial markets have some concerns about Mr Miyazawa, he is undoubtedly the most qualified candidate available within current LDP ranks.

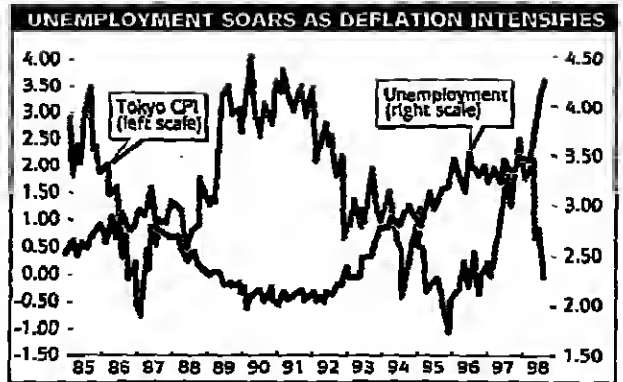
Indeed, the Obuchi/Miyazawa combination is arguably the best which the LDP could muster in the current circumstances. As leaders of the two most powerful factions within the LDP, they have immense influence within the party, which will be needed in coming months as they attempt to gain support for key legislative measures.

Given the plunge in the LDP's electoral support and their lack of a majority in the Upper House, a risk still remains that the newer members will become disillusioned with the lack of policy action shown by the party. However, both Mr Miyazawa and Mr Obuchi possess finely honed negotiating skills and in the present environment, represent possibly the best chance for maintaining LDP party unity.

Nevertheless, the task faced by the two men is daunting. The Japanese economy is in the depths of a serious recession, one which at this stage shows no signs of ending. Industrial production fell 5 per cent in the second quarter, both consumer and business confidence are extremely gloomy, capital expenditure plans have been put on hold and household saving has increased sharply.

The Bank of Japan has recently expressed concern that Japan may have entered a deflationary cycle. Unemployment is on the rise; indeed, the unemployment rate in July of 4.3 per cent was a record, and with the corporate sector set to continue restructuring in coming months, substantial layoffs are in store. Very soon, we may find that the Japanese unemployment rate will be above that of the US, a situation regarded as completely implausible even 12 months ago.

In the face of these enormous economic challenges, one



of the first areas which Mr Miyazawa has concentrated on is banking sector reform. A good part of the explanation for Japan having fallen on such hard times is the explosion in bad debts held by the major banks: in response to this, banks have simply ceased providing credit, inevitably leading to a credit crunch.

The big banks accumulated significant debts after the collapse of the asset price bubble in the early 1990s. Recently, with the domestic economy again

entering recession, and with many Asian economies also deteriorating, Japanese banks have been forced to declare an increasing volume of bad and doubtful debts, resulting in a significant diminution of their capital base. Not until this capital base is replenished can these banks again perform their normal function of credit provision.

Mr Miyazawa has already promised to introduce legislation to reform the banking sector as soon as possible. Indeed, we could see some legislation in this area introduced to the

Diet very soon, which would be a positive step. There are many unanswered questions regarding this legislation, including how aggressively the Obuchi administration will be prepared to push the top banks into declaring their true doubtful debts. Given the close relationship which the LDP traditionally has with the banks and the construction companies, they will be loath to pursue rapid rationalisation.

Another area which both Mr Obuchi and Mr Miyazawa have promised to address is taxation. Mr Obuchi promised large tax cuts in his LDP leadership campaign, although exact details of his tax proposals are still not clear. He has pledged to reduce the top marginal tax rate and to reduce the corporate tax rate to international standards.

Mr Miyazawa recently spoke about a two-stage tax cut totalling around ¥6 trillion, the first part being a uniform tax cut. The large supplementary budget package which Mr Obuchi mentioned will be considered more seriously later in the year.

At this early stage of the Obuchi administration, it already appears that frustration could easily build over the slow pace of reform in Japan. The magnitude of the task facing the new leadership is enormous; moreover, they have the full weight of the international community, global financial markets, the Japanese electorate, and the rest of the LDP assessing their every move.

Moody's, the credit rating agency, can also be added to this list, given its recent announcement that it was reviewing Japan's credit rating for a possible downgrade because of concerns over its exploding fiscal deficit.

Japan is poised at a crucial point in its history; the Obuchi administration needs to come up with the answers and quickly, or else Japan's future economic course will be significantly altered.

Bronwyn Curtis is chief economist at Nomura International

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FOREIGN

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Shell and Compass lead the retreat

AN UNLIKELY food and oil combination pulled any faint hopes of a footsie out of this week's dismal spin. The index ended 38.4 points lower at 5,594.1, it is the first time it has closed below 5,600 since early February. At one time it was down 85.6.

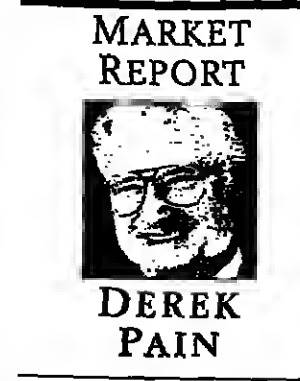
Shell, off 26.5p to 356p, and Compass, down 62p to 538p, led what was another ragged retreat.

Weak second-quarter figures hit the Shell oil giant, and the contract caterer Compass was, it appeared, roasted by Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, which put a sell sign over the shares. The investment house took the view that the price had run ahead of the game.

Compass has had a good spell as encouraging results mingled with takeover speculation (Rentokil Initial is the favoured predator). Turnover was a healthy 8.3 million shares.

Shell's discomfort was reflected in other oil shares. British Petroleum fell 10p to 771p with the ripples spreading to Enterprise Oil, off 20p at 464p, and Lazard, 4p at 209p.

At one time the Monetary Policy Committee seemed to be about to



DEREK PAIN

assume a rescue role. However, its unsurprising decision to leave interest rates unchanged failed to create much confidence, with the market deciding to dwell on its other pet worries, such as Asia, the problems facing currency-sensitive shares with the consequent pressure on earnings and, of course, the Clinton saga. Still, the pegged rates probably helped lift shares from their early afternoon lows.

British Airways, on the verge of committing £1.5bn to replacing its ageing fleet and still awaiting clearance on its proposed American

Airlines deal, fell 25.5p to 569.5p. Stagecoach, on hopes of another acquisition, featured on the blue-chip leader board, running ahead 76p to 1,289p. Rolls-Royce, on expectations of more aero-engine orders, rose 10.5p to 233.5p and Kingfisher improved 15p to 463p following Henderson Crosthwaite support.

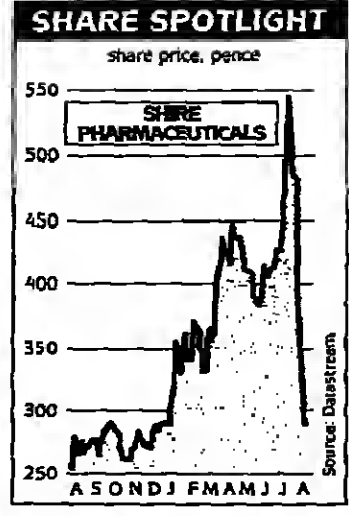
General Electric Co put on 9.5p to 472p as Salomon Smith Barney said the shares could outperform.

Footsie has had a torrid time since reaching a 6,179 peak last month. It has been hit by almost continuous selling as some investors have taken the view that the long bull run has at last hit the buffers.

Supporting indices were also off-colour yesterday, although falls were more restrained than among the blue-chip brigade.

Shire Pharmaceuticals was the day's major casualty. The company admitted the fire at a US plant could cut sales by at least £21m, the equivalent of two months' trading. The shares, off 86p on Wednesday, collapsed a further 100p to 293.5p.

Superstores were left on the shelf after Taylor Nelson AGB's influential monthly research indi-



cated J Sainsbury, on a month-to-month trend, was taking customers from Tesco, down 5p at 175p. Sainsbury, although suffering a year-on-year decline, firmed 2.5p to 505.5p.

Next, the fashion chain, was again under pressure. A steady stream of sellers, worried about July's sales, left the shares nursing a 28p fall to a 448p year's low.

Racal Electronics rose 11p to 383.5p. Its delayed year's figures are due to appear today. The company held back its results until it had completed the sale of the remainder of its data communications business.

It is likely, because of write-downs, that Racal will report a loss, although there should be an underlying profit of around £70m.

Partco, the car parts firm, re-retreated 13.5p to 222.5p after rebuffing bidder Fininvest, unchanged at 282.5p. ILLP, the paper and packaging group, fell 5p to 30.5p after bid talks ended. Concentric, an engineer, strengthened 14p to 157.5p following a management buyout. Claxton Homes improved 10p to 110p on bid talks.

Bid rumours swirled. Hepworth, the building materials group, was given another whirl, jumping 15.5p to 190p from its year's low. The German group Vaillant was again said to be interested. Vaux, the brewer, and Booker, the cash and carry chain, were others remaining in the bid spotlight.

The dancing stopped for Northern Leisure, the disco chain. Panmure Gordon cut its profits estimate from £16.2m to £14.3m and the shares relapsed 10.5p to 140p.

lowest this year. And London International fell 16.5p to 209p after warning of lower profits.

Tepnel Life Sciences, said to be in the dumps through persistent selling by one fund manager, managed a 4p recovery to 23p.

Hidden Hearing International, a hearing aid retailer, arrived at 149p from a 140p launch; Premier Direct, selling books and toys in offices and factories, held at 182.5p. The shares were sold at 180p.

Jarvis, the construction and rail maintenance group, hardened 4.5p to 630p. It is due to make an investment presentation next week.

The former Falklands flyer fell back as Shell, drilling in the South Atlantic, played hopes of a strike. Desire Petroleum fell 15p to 170p and its two satellites, Greenwick Resources and Westmount, gave ground.

Provident Financial, the credit group, tumbled 28p to 957.5p after Charterhouse Tilney said sell down to 800p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 837.2m
SEAQ TRADES: 61,979
GILTS INDEX: 105.87 +0.29

CRC, a computer repaireur, returned at 147.5p after taking over AIDL (Automated Integrated Diagnosis), which repairs and services mobile phones. While the deal, a reverse takeover, was put together, CRC shares were suspended; last trade was 143.5p. To help finance the deal shares were placed at 143p.

PHYTOPHARM, seeking treatments from plants, continued to blossom, gaining 14.5p to 110.5p, a two-day gain of 30p. Rumours persist that the group is set to announce a licensing deal, probably relating to its eczema treatment, later this month.

INTER LINK Foods, making own-label cakes and pastries, is planning an AIM flotation through Wise Speke. Shares are being sold at 110p.

BEAUFORT, a management consultant, held at 1.25p after its finance director picked up 1,650,000 shares at 1.5p.

Problems under the surface at Zeneca

ZENECA IS a difficult patient to diagnose. At first sight, the pharmaceutical group looks in reasonably good health.

It has a decent drugs portfolio - backed up by a pipeline with a couple of potential best-sellers. The agrochemicals division, which has been a drag on earnings for some time, is set to benefit from recent restructuring, with fungicides already delivering growth.

Add a problem-free balance sheet and you can see why the market believes Zeneca is strong enough to keep its promise of growing underlying earnings by 15 per cent a year.

Yesterday's first-half results, which showed a 2 per cent slide in profits to £654m after a heavy hit from sterling, Asia and the millennium bug, did little to dent this belief. The shares firmed 15p to 2380p after a pretty poor run in the weeks leading up to the figures.

So can Zeneca be discharged with a clean bill of health? Not really. If investors scratch the surface, they will see that some of the star drugs - including two blockbuster, the hypertension treatment Zestril and the cancer drug Novaval - are set to lose patent protection in 2002. The new compounds which were supposed to replace them, notably the schizophrenia drug Seroquel, have got off to a slow start while the mature ones will suffer from increased competition.

At the same time, the agrochemicals division will be hit by difficult market conditions and shrinking margins. True, Zeneca could be taken over by one of the pharmaceutical giants, but no premium has materialised despite years of speculation. And with the shares trading at almost 30 times expected 1998 earnings of around £1.1bn - a 60 per cent premium to the market - the prescription is: sell into strength.

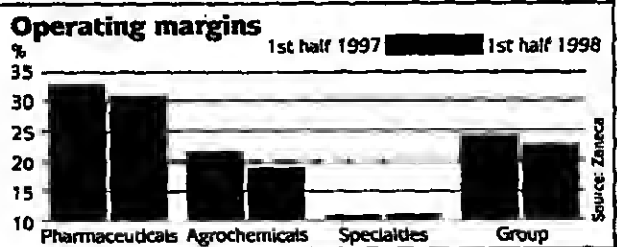
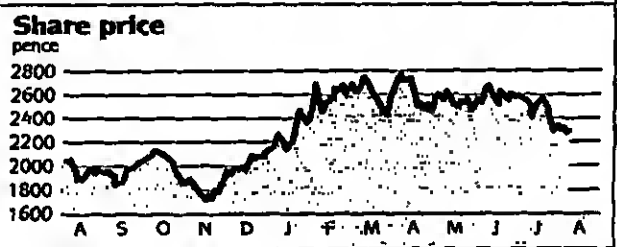
INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

ZENECA: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £21.64bn, share price 2,280p (+15p)

Trading record	1995	1996	1997	1997	1998
Turnover (£bn)	4.50	5.36	5.13	2.75	2.90
Pre-tax profits (£m)	619	975	1,081	669	626
Earnings per share (p)	35.80	57.80	71.00	47.30	45.10
Dividends per share (p)	19.75	22.50	25.00	13.50	14.00



Telewest future looks better

TELEWEST'S rehabilitation in the City has to be one of the most unlikely corporate revivals of all time. Suddenly the cable group - for so long the media sector's ugly duckling - is showing signs of growing into something resembling a swan.

Not that Telewest's interim results, released yesterday, offer much support for that view. Although penetration rates improved, they remain stuck at low levels: 22.8 per cent for television and 30.9 per cent for telephony. The best companies in the sector are getting closer to 40 per cent. Churn rates are still stubbornly high. And Telewest's income statement remains a sea of red ink, although operating losses narrowed from £60m to £39.9m, a higher interest bill meant pre-tax losses were more or less steady at £142m.

Elementis hit by strong pound

THE CHEMICALS sector has been knocked for six by the strong pound, and Elementis, the former Harrison & Crossfield business, has proved no exception. Currency movements and the Asian downturn knocked £2.8m and £1.8m off profits respectively in the first half, reducing pre-tax profits to £36m compared to last year's £42.5m.

All this has weighed heavily on the shares which were battered further by ICI's profits warning last month.

This is harsh on a company which has completely re-invented itself under its chief executive, Bill Turcan. It has jettisoned its conglomerate tag by selling its timber, petfoods and agricultural foodstuffs operations to concentrate on speciality chemicals. It has bought Rheox, a maker of additives for paints, for £277m and returned £402m to shareholders. The only part still up for sale is the BOCM Pauls animal feeds business which is expected to go to its management for around £85m.

With Rheox, Elementis is now a world leader in additives for paints. Its other main division, chromium, is a major force in the world market and this business improved profits to £17m from £16m in the half. However, there is work to do. The pigments business, which has been hit by the loss of a major US customer and weak demand in Europe, is being restructured as costs in America are too high. This is on schedule to deliver substantial cost savings from the year 2000.

On analysts' full-year forecasts of £57m, the shares - unchanged at 138.5p yesterday - traded on a forward multiple of 12. Given the volatility in the sector that seems about right.

IN BRIEF

Field Group buys Dutch supplier

FIELD GROUP, the packaging manufacturer, has bought Holland's biggest supplier of printed pharmaceutical leaflets and books, Van Os of Eindhoven, for £3.7m.

Van Os made profits of £600,000 in 1997. Keith Gilchrist, chief executive of Field, says the acquisition means the group has extended its pan-European supply network with the acquisition of five operations in a year, giving it a combined turnover of £30m.

It plans to seek more acquisitions to strengthen its position as a leading packaging supplier to the European healthcare market.

Amvescap profit

AMVESCAP, the fund management group formed from the merger of Invesco and AIM Management in 1997, yesterday dismissed rumours that it planned to give up its independence as it reported improved pre-tax profits of £117.6m (£73.4m) for the first half.

Amvescap shares recently rose on rumours that Goldman Sachs was about to bid for the group in an attempt to boost its asset management presence. Neither side commented on the rumours.

Shire shares fall

SHARES in Shire Pharmaceuticals crashed 25 pence yesterday after the drug maker said that a fire at one of its US suppliers would cost it £21m (£13m), equal to two months trading.

The stock closed down 100p at 293.5p, after falling 18 pence on Wednesday when the company first told the market about the fire at New Jersey-based Arzoni Inc.

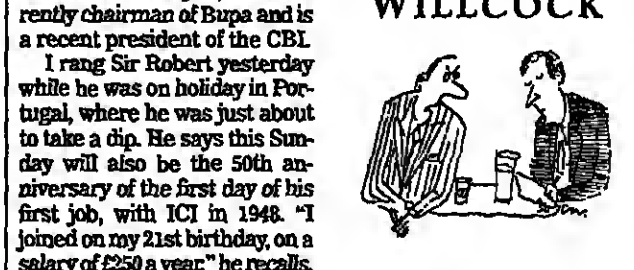
Partco says no

PARTCO, the car parts maker, yesterday rejected a merger offer from rival Fininvest, saying the offer price was too low. The all-share offer, at 240p a share, was an "attempted takeover of Partco with no bid premium", Partco said. Partco shares fell 13.5p to 222.5p. Fininvest stayed at 282.5p.

The road to the top starts at £250 a year

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



SIR ROBERT MALPAS will celebrate his 71st birthday on Sunday, and is preparing to step down as chairman of Cookson, the materials technology group, in favour of Sir Bryan Nicholson. Sir Bryan, 66, is currently chairman of Bupa and is a recent president of the CBI.

I rang Sir Robert yesterday while he was on holiday in Portugal, where he was just about to take a dip. He says this Sunday will also be the 50th anniversary of the first day of his first job, with ICI in 1948. "I joined on my 21st birthday, on a salary of £250 a year," he recalls.

Sir Robert temporarily resumed the chairmanship of Cookson in December after Richard Oster left the group to pursue other interests. Sir Robert was previously chairman of the circuit board components and ceramics maker from 1991 until last September. Mr Oster, the former chief executive, had taken over from Sir Robert as chairman the previous month.

A keen advocate of the links between technology and business, Sir Robert will not be "retiring" in the golf "nursing" sense. He will expand his role as a director of the Spanish company, Repsol, where he gives advice on chemical issues, and he is still co-chairman of Eurotunnel. He also plans to advise various small private companies and start-ups.

His successor, Sir Bryan Nicholson, will join Cookson as a non-exec in September and chairman the following month. He will continue heading Bupa, which he says will probably retain its status as a provident association, contrary to speculation that it may convert, "building society" style, to a plc.

"Any decision to convert lies with the board (of Bupa) and the 150-strong governing membership - but there are considerable advantages in staying a provident," says Sir Bryan.

After all, "buying healthcare is different to buying baked beans," he points out.

How very true. Sir Bryan, who is also a non-executive director of engineering groups LucasVarley and GKN, still sits on the CBI board and is keen to see interest rates come down, as you might expect. "The next move should be down, not up," he says.

back its research side in the UK. He will report to Mr Harwood, now global head of economics and strategy at DKB.

Mr Sheppard and Mr Harwood last worked together at SG Warburg Securities (now part of Warburg Dillon Read) in the years during and after Big Bang, 1986 to 1993.

Mr Sheppard will be working with DKB's bond and currency research group headed by Guido Barthels, global head, and Reiner Beck, deputy head, in Frankfurt. He will be joining a hot team in this year's Exel survey, the DKB global economics team came top.

STEVEN DOWNE is becoming something of an expert in fast growing retail chains. He is joining Spooks, a kitchen reject shop group based in Ipswich, as finance director the same job he previously did for La Senza, the lingerie chain.

Mr Downe's previous jobs have included being director of the Victorian Trading Company and divisional finance director of Signet Group, formerly Ratners.

Mr Downe's job at Spooks is a newly created post on the board, which is headed by Anthony Graham-Enoch. Last year the company poached Andrew Farnham from Top Shop to be retail operations director. Spooks has ambitious plans to expand from its current total of 34 stores to 100 outlets by 2007.

VI GROUP, which designs and distributes computer aided design systems, has appointed Peter Wharton as group finance director and an executive director with immediate effect.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES				
Country	Sterling	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	1.0000			
Australia	2.0689	2.0689	2.0689	2.0689
Canada	0.6912	0.6912	0.6912	0.6912
Denmark	1.4694	1.4694	1.4694	1.4694
France	6.5595	6.5595	6.5595	6.5595
Germany	2.0536	2.0536	2.0536	2.0536
Greece	163.360	163.360	163.360	163.360
Hong Kong	7.7556	7.7556	7.7556	7.7556
India	47.8480	47.8480	47.8480	47.8480
Japan	161.081	161.081	161.081	161.081
Malaysia	3.7603	3.7603	3.7603	3.7603
Mexico	16.4761	16.4761	16.4761	16.4761
Netherlands	2.2037	2.2037	2.2037	2.2037
New Zealand	1.3571	1.3571	1.3571	1.3571
Norway	13.7561	13.7561	13.7561	13.7561
Portugal	204.806	204.806	204.806	204.806
Saudi Arabia	3.6703	3.6703	3.6703	3.6703
Singapore	2.0367	2.0367	2.0367	2.0367
South Africa	10.1763	10.1763	10.1763	10.1763
Spain	166.366	166.366	166.366	166.366
Sweden	13.7561	13.7561	13.7561	13.7561
Switzerland	2.0367	2.0367	2.0367	2.0367
US	1.5342	1.5342	1.5342	1.5342

INTEREST RATES				
Country	1 year	2 year	3 year	10 year
UK	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%
Germany	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
France	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Italy	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Spain	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Japan	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
US	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%

LIFE FINANCIAL FUTURES				
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est. floor
Long Gilt	Sep-98	109.70	110.00	109.36
5 Yr Gilt	Sep-98	103.81	104.00	103.41
10 Yr Gilt	Sep-98	103.81	104.00	103.41
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	96.47	96.44	96.42
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	96.47	96.44	96.42
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	96.47	96.44	96.42
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	96.47	96.44	96.42
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	96.47	96.44	96.42
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	96.47	96.44	96.42
3 Mth Eurodollar	Sep-98	96.47	96.44	96.42

INDUSTRIAL METALS				
Commodity	Unit	Price	Change	Volume
Aluminium	1306.5	1307.5	1.00	1327
Copper	1190	1190	0.00	1175
Lead	535.5	535.5	0.00	543
Nickel	4130	4140	10.00	4200
Platinum	5700	5710	10.00	5800
Silver	1057	1057	0.00	1075
Zinc	1057	1057	0.00	1075

OTHER SPOT RATES				
Country	Sterling	Dollar	Yen	Mark
UK	1.0000			
Australia	2.0689			
Canada	0.6912			
Denmark	1.4694			
France	6.5595			
Germany	2.0536			
Greece	163.360			
Hong Kong	7.7556			
India	47.8480			
Japan	161.081			
Malaysia	3.7603			
Mexico	16.4761			
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Saudi Arabia	3.6703			
Singapore	2.0367			
South Africa	10.1763			
Spain	166.366			
Sweden	13.7561			
Switzerland	2.0367			
US	1.5342			

MONEY MARKET RATES				
Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months
UK	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%	7.50%
Germany	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
France	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Italy	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Spain	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Japan	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
US	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%

LIFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION				
Series	Call	Put	Call	Put
5500	23	430	28	474
5550	22	479	30	514
5600	22	529	32	554
5650	21	579	35	594

AGRICULTURAL				
Commodity	Unit	Price	Change	Volume
Cocoa	1306.5	1307.5	1.00	1327
Coffee	1190	1190	0.00	1175
Grain	535.5	535.5	0.00	543
Oil	4130	4140	10.00	4200
Wheat	5700	5710	10.00	5800
Yield	1057	1057	0.00	1075

SPORT

The mysterious shadow of the Ronaldo affair

In Brazil, there is no simple explanation for what happened prior to the World Cup final. There is only intrigue. By David Smith

NILTON SANTOS is the kind of man you would choose to take into battle. Even at 73, the massive upper arms still hint at a shoulder-charge that once changed the course of a World Cup final. Even at twice his best playing weight, the legs still go up and down the stairs of a noisy apartment block in Rio de Janeiro as if he were cantering up from defence for a corner at the Maracana, or Wembley, or San Siro.

Even now Mr Santos has the tongue that once gave the young Pele serious abuse-cum-advice, making Pele the boy prodigy into Pele the eternal superstar they say. "You've come here looking for a conspiracy," he tells me loudly, his voice rising with an authority that marshalled victory in the World Cups of a bygone age. Sweden in 1958 and Chile in 1962. "Stop looking for a conspiracy. It's much simpler than that. All you have to do is ask yourself this: Why did they let the kid play?" He pauses, looking at me to see if I'm registering the message. "You know, Pele was kicked off the pitch in Chile in 1962 and he was then told to rest for weeks. He didn't even play in the final. Now a kid has a convulsion, and four hours later they send him out to play in a World Cup final."

With that Mr Santos pulls out the first contract he ever signed, with Botafogo in 1948. It was once just a blank sheet of paper with his signature at the bottom. "They filled in how much money I earned, and I never made more than \$3,000 a year, even when we won the World Cup. But, in return, I had the right to honest medicine, and the right to a rest when I was injured."

It is 6pm on the Friday before the opening weekend of the season. Doctor Joaquim Da Mata is fretting. The star of Botafogo Football Club, the mercurial talent called Bebeto, is reporting an old leg injury, pulling up at the end of an otherwise peaceful training session at the club's antique stadium in Niteroi, the quiet town just across the Guanabara Bay from Rio. Dr Da Mata sends the player to the hospital, orders an MRI over the phone, and insists to the coach that Bebeto miss Saturday's work-out. "That way he should make the game on Sunday," he repeats over and over like a man who needs to convince himself. "Believe me, with a player like Bebeto you give him a day to rest. He should make it by Sunday. It's a big game, you know, so early in the season. We need to win. He stops, to take a call from the hospital confirming Bebeto's scan. "Everybody's worried about how small the crowd might be on Sunday."

It is almost a month now since Brazil's debacle in the World Cup final, and still there are no answers to the mystery played out that night in Paris: a mystery far more intriguing than a game that was never a contest once it became clear that Ronaldo simply should not have been on the field, and that Brazil represented a pale imitation of champions with him sick.

Almost daily, the Brazilian football confederation, the CBF, offers placebos, summarily firing the coaching staff one week, the doctors the next, hinting darkly that the coach, Mario Zagallo, was to blame for the humiliation in the Stade de France.

Ronaldo himself, depressed according to his family, angry according to his friends, has fled to the United States in secret, apparently to play the casinos of Las Vegas, before belatedly returning to Internazionale di Milano later this month.

His one public statement? "Não amarelei... [I'm not yellow, I'm no coward]" he tells Globo television in a brief interview which suggests a 31-year-old superstar has aged 10 years in the month of July. Nevertheless, Rio radio stations seem to delight in playing the jingle made famous by Ronaldo's TV commercial for Nike, with the words: "El amarelo... he's yellow... he did chicken out."

So the knives are out and, inevitably, some close to events are beginning to talk. The picture they paint? A fairly shocking one of the global game's Superman playing through pain, of the multi-million dollar talent being subjected routinely to pain-killing treatment, of Big

Business dictating the decision-making in Paris that Sunday afternoon in July.

We hear it from Dr Da Mata, physician to the team in Paris, who declares, with astonishing clarity, that allowing Ronaldo to play in the final represents "the worst decision of my life". We hear it from Ronaldo's best friend on the Brazil squad, who asked: "Can you believe now he still played? It was crazy, the whole episode." And we hear it from a veteran on the team, who wonders aloud: "Medicine and big business go together now, they work hand in hand. It's all about a product, not the people who play it."

Listening to these voices you glimpse the new world of football: the vortex of money, power and commercial interest that could not countenance the World Cup final without the brightest star, the player who had become the ultimate crowd-puller of the beautiful game in 1998.

"In my time it was the army generals running Brazil who tried to pick the team," says Tostão, the man who played in Brazil's No 9 shirt in the final of 1970, the splendid foil to Pele's rapier, today an eye doctor in Belo Horizonte. "Today it's the sponsors, the businessman, the media moguls. The World Cup final is the world's biggest TV show."

First, we go after the evidence: the medicine. If anyone has the answers, it is Dr Da Mata, a veteran of 20 years in the game. He says his



'In my time it was army generals who tried to pick the team. Today it's the sponsors, the businessman, the media moguls'

heart still races as he recalls the nightmare of 12 July. The call to Ronaldo's hotel room, the discovery of a player snoring post-seizure, the frantic rush to the clinic, the emergency tests. "Never, in all these years, have I seen before, a player with a convulsion... I see young Ronaldo that day, and I'm thinking tragedy."

What Dr Da Mata proceeds to tell us is, quietly, stunning. According to him, Ronaldo had been on serious pain-killers since aggravating a long-standing knee injury in the second game of the tournament, against Morocco. He prescribed Volaren, he says, a common pain-killer: it was taken orally. "Never, never, we make infiltrations on his knee," says the doctor, his English failing him.

"No injections? Is that what you mean?" I ask.

"No injections, never... Injections, infiltrations, very dangerous." How could his doctors have him play through pain? He insists Ronaldo never played in pain. "You see, we look after him. He has pain in between matches, we give him tablets," he counters. "Never he is in pain when he is playing. We make sure of that."

Could not the pain-killers have triggered the seizure? "No, no," comes the reply, with a wagging finger. "The medicine we use is not so strong, to cause convulsion."

In the Brazilian papers the conspiracy theorists are having a field day. O Globo newspaper ran the anonymous account of a team official, who claimed Ronaldo was given pain-killing injections, one as late as the early morning of the final. The drug used, according to this, was Xilocaine, a cortisone with anaesthetic. "Everyone knows how dangerous an injection it is," the quote

goes on. "But stakes were just so huge."

What is so striking, talking with members of the squad, is that pain-killing treatment is routine, systematic. Gonçalves, a veteran defender who sat on the bench in Paris, unlucky to lose his place to Junior Baiano, puts it all in perspective. "It's normal to play through pain," he confides as he finishes training with his team, Botafogo. "Absolutely normal. Think about it. There you are, you've worked years to get to the World Cup, you have made this huge investment, and you're not going to blow it because of pain you can play with."

He stops, digressing to recall how he was almost sold to Nottingham Forest, in a package totalling £5m, before Forest were relegated two years ago. "Many of the biggest stars in this game play with pain because they have so much to lose if they don't. You are, always, an injury away from losing the business deal of your life."

On the field, Gonçalves is as canny a player as Brazil has ever produced, an astute reader of the game: how can he be so short-sighted off it? "Look, what I'm telling you is the reality of the game now. Sports medicine and big business are evil twins," he declares. "I'm about to apologise for my naivety, when he adds: "I can't stop thinking about this moment, a moment when we were all shocked, confused, dismayed. I now realise we lost the final the moment Ronaldo came into the dressing-room, and told us he wanted to play. In that moment, Brazil lost the World Cup."

Now it is time to go after the conspiracy. Did anyone order Ronaldo to play? Who pulled the strings? And who created this cynical syndrome of players performing on the world's biggest stage, despite the pain, despite a convulsion, or whatever?

Ricardo Teixeira is the head of the Brazilian football confederation and we've heard enough already to know that, the patrician in everything he wears, says and does. Dom Ricardo was the Boss in the dressing-room that night, coming down from the stands of Stade de France an hour before kick-off when the infamous team-sheet was changed, to replace Edmundo with Ronaldo.

Dom Ricardo is the same fixer who negotiated an unprecedented \$125m (£80m) deal with Nike for the Brazilian national team. When Nike says let's play Japan, or America, or Australia, or whatever other emerging market springs to mind, now Taffarel, Cafu, Dunga and friends do just that.

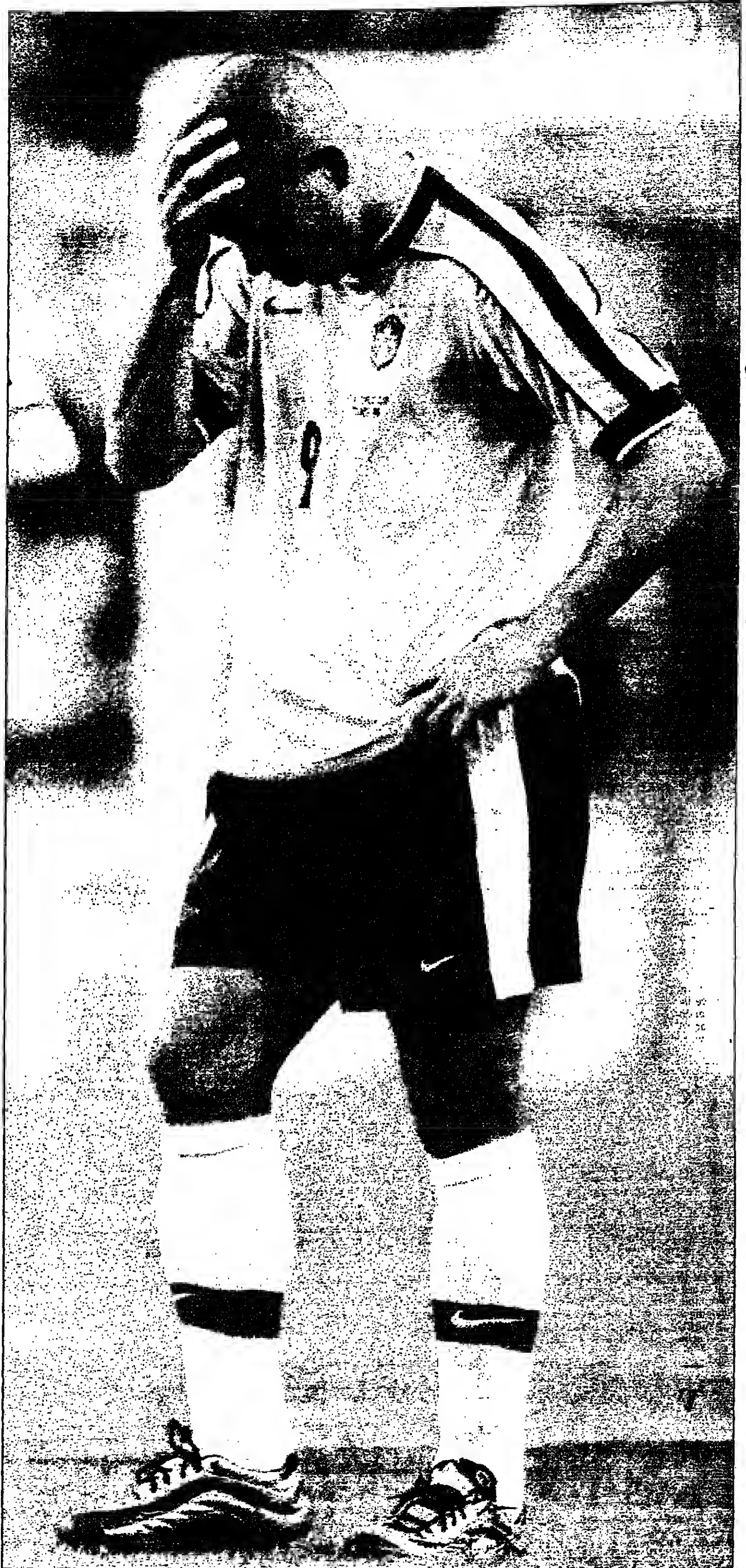
Unfortunately, Dom Ricardo does not talk to inquisitive foreigners: or at least not to foreigners who won't pay. An official in the Confederation press office suggests we talk to a sports writer at O Povo, a Brazilian tabloid newspaper, and pay him "cash mooney", then an interview with Dom Ricardo could be arranged. Politely, we decline, concluding we learned more from that exchange about the inner workings of the Brazilian federation than we did watching Dom Ricardo talk on national television the night before.

Instead, persistence has paid off on another front. We spend a relaxed, peaceful afternoon with the thinker of the Brazilian team - the Socrates of the 90s, they call him - Ronaldo's best friend and room-mate in France: Leonardo.

"What do you think? That the boss of Nike calls up on his mobile phone from New York and says: 'Play Ronaldo, that's an order!'" Leonardo has a smile that disarms you, and he knows how to use it. He's leading me through all the twists and turns of the plot that hatched that night in Paris in the minds of most of the football-watching world.

"So you think there's a hot line between Nike and our dressing-room? Or Texeira calls up Nike for instructions? Or maybe I pick up my mobile and call Nike for my orders?" He dares me to answer him.

Funny you should mention that, Leonardo. I'm thinking. Aren't you wearing a Nike sweatshirt as you meet us at the private training ground you use in Niteroi? Don't you think about whether to do our television interview with or without your Nike shirt on, in front of the camera? I keep my thoughts to myself. The silence speaks for itself. Finally, he fills the void. "Look, my friend, it's so much simpler than you think."



The aftermath: Ronaldo ponders what might have been, following Brazil's 3-0 defeat by France in the World Cup final last month

long ago, when the beautiful game of Brazil sold its poetry, and soul, to vested interest.

In Leonardo's world, there is no conspiracy, just the shop-floor reality of being a worker in a factory more glamorous than most. "It's a job," he concludes when I push him on the cynicism of all this. "Sure, Nike wanted Ronaldo to play, and the Football federation, and everyone else. It's the system, it's the economics, it's the pressure of the game today, and it's hard on the people who play." Then that smile creases that face again, and he talks wistfully of a career that has taken him from Rio to Paris to Milan. "Not that hard." He chuckles.

It's an education, all this, even if you allow for the fact that the key figures are talking in the sad aftermath of humiliation in Paris, and each individual has a personal, vested interest in asking us to see them in a certain light.

What no one should doubt is the transparent nature of this crisis of the beautiful game, visible so starkly here because these people have a long, proud history of baring soul, not burying it.

"The conspiracy is starting all of us in the face," said Nilton Santos, the Venerable Bede of the grand old game in Brazil, as he sends me on my way to find out for myself. "All you have to do is read the writing on the

wall, and see it for what it is. A player today is an investment, the property of others. He doesn't own himself."

Mr Santos stopped playing at age 40. He doubts Ronaldo will make it to 30.

Just out of instinct, and curiosity, I speak again to Dr Da Mata at Botafogo Football Club. Will Bebeto make opening day? "I'm sure he will," the doctor says. "The MRI shows everything OK."

For the record, Bebeto did play, disappointingly. And Botafogo, the heavy favourites, lost.

David Smith is Washington Correspondent for Channel Four News.

1550

5:50 من الامتحان

Fish prepares for life in a smaller pond

FOOTBALL LIKES its piscatory terms, as in FA Cup minnows, transfer catches and even Eric Cantona's seagulls and trawlers. But the fishy business will come to a climax on two occasions this season when Bolton Wanderers meet Grimsby Town (the first occasion a week tomorrow), and the stands will resemble Billingsgate Market.

Grimsby, nicknamed the Mariners, naturally still have their "Harry the Haddock" effigies, but Bolton fans know their places too—all thanks to one player, Mark Fish. In his native South Africa, his supporters carry the real things skinned on sticks, but thankfully, it only for the sake of the nostrils, the Wanderers fans stick to synthetic hats.

They also issue a sinister sounding hiss when ever Fish gets the ball which, to the uninitiated, sounds rather like abuse. Rather, it is "Feeeesh", borrowed from the South Africans and issued in the accent of his country.

It goes without saying that Fish, a swashbuckling centre-back, is a cult figure on two continents and will be one of the most colourful figures in the First Division this season. He would have preferred to be similarly extrovert in the Premiership, but thanks to Bolton's last-day collapse against Chelsea in May, it will be at Bury and Tranmere, rather than Blackburn and Tottenham, where his surges forward will be seen.

"It'll be a different experience for me," he said with some understatement, as he was playing in the World Cup only six weeks ago. "I'll be visiting grounds I never dreamt of going to. It's going to be hard, but as long as we can motivate ourselves I'm sure we can get promoted. It's a challenge and that's why I stayed here, I want to get Bolton straight back so we can forget about last season."

Forget? Fish's senses are only just clearing so that he can remember in a tearful dressing room at Stamford Bridge the disappointment was too raw. "It's easier to look back now than then," he said. "I was totally devastated, wishing that I could have played more times for Bolton than I did because on several occasions I'd had commitments with South Africa."

"Getting relegated on goal difference is very hard to take. You think of times when the ball hit the post or when we dropped points when we shouldn't have done. Most

Guy Hodgson meets Bolton's flamboyant South African defender, a cult figure on two continents who is determined not to repeat the mistakes of last season

of all, though, I was upset that we didn't put up a good enough fight on the last day.

"We always believed that we were a mid-table team and we were, if you judged us by the performances we put up at the Reebok Stadium. Our problem was our away form. I don't know if we felt inferior to the teams we played against but we just didn't perform, right up to the last day of the season. That led to our downfall."

For Fish, 24, failure hitherto this had been an alien concept, but one that he would suffer again at France 98. The centre-back, whose instincts to attack have had him likened to a latterday Franz Beckenbauer, won his first of 40 caps for South Africa in 1993 and is very much a national hero.

Not many white men are venerated in Soweto but Fish is—as much as anything because he epitomises the changing concepts of his country. When he was young he eschewed the "white" sports of rugby union and cricket to play football, which then was considered to be the sport of the townships.

Typically of the apartheid times, he found no problems with his black team-mates at club or country level but was not acknowledged by his old school when he won international caps, and was only invited back when he became a renowned member of the African Nations Cup-winning team. His response, not surprisingly, was forthright: "I didn't go back and I never will."

He would gladly revisit the World Cup, though, even if his country's first brush with the finals was a mixed one. South Africa won one and lost two matches, failing to qualify for the second round, and although Fish found the experience "everything I dreamt of: the hype, the excitement, the people" the squad was not a happy one.

There were arguments with the South African Football Federation over money, but most of all there was deep unhappiness among the players because Clive Barker, the coach who had guided the team to France, had resigned four months before the

finals. His replacement, Philippe Troussier, was not a popular choice.

"He wasn't the right man for the job," Fish said. "He didn't understand our mentality. Africans are different to Europeans, and that was the biggest problem. We had a lot of players who wanted to go home, who didn't want to be in France, because of the situation our federation had put us in."

Clive Barker understood us. He made each man feel he was the best player in the world and that's why we performed for him. The Frenchman was entirely opposite."

It was Barker who described Fish as the most irritating player he had worked with, but the erstwhile national coach also said: "He is not the first player on my team-sheet. He is my first, second and third."

Fish smiled at the references. "It's my style of play. I remember him saying once, 'This is a very important game, concentrate on defending', and the first time I got the ball I charged forward in attack. I was young in mind and heart and I did my own thing, but I learnt a lot from him."

Did he give Colin Todd, who paid £2m to bring him to Bolton from Lazio, similar palpitations? "He'd seen me play and one of the reasons why he signed me was because I provide an option in attack; I don't think he wanted me to change too much. In the First Division he just wants me to be more careful, to pick my times when I go."

The more circumspect Fish will be unveiled at Crystal Palace tomorrow, a match between two relegated teams who, if last season is a precedent, will be among the front-runners in the First Division this time. For Bolton, who amassed 100 goals and 98 points en route to the championship in 1996-97, the expectation is greater.

"A lot of people will put Bolton among the favourites because of the way they went up two years ago," Fish said. "But it's a different team and everyone will want to beat us because we were in the Premiership."

Big fish in a smaller pond, you might say.



Mark Fish is learning to discipline his attacking instinct: 'Colin Todd wants me to be more careful, to pick my times when I go' *Empires*

United may be given Champions' League bye

BY RUPERT METCALF

MANCHESTER UNITED have learned that they may receive a bye into the Champions' League and not have to bother with next week's preliminary round.

The Premiership runners-up are due face the Polish side, LKS Lodz, next Wednesday in the first leg, with the winners over two legs qualifying for the highly lucrative Champions' League. However, Lodz may be removed from the competition today by Uefa, European football's ruling body.

The problem centres on a dispute between Uefa and the Polish government, which has suspended top Polish Football Association officials.

Uefa believes the decision has been made on political grounds and wants the officials to be reinstated before Polish football is allowed to compete in Uefa competitions. So far the Polish government has refused to lift the bans, claiming that the decisions were made because of internal corruption and not for political reasons.

The United manager, Alex Ferguson, preparing for Sunday's Charity Shield with Arsenal and—perhaps—the European tie, said yesterday: "Apparently it is all being decided tomorrow, so we will just have to wait and see. I don't know what will happen. You never know with football authorities." It is possible that United may be asked to play Kapaz Ganca, from Azerbaijan, who lost to Lodz in the qualifying round, but a bye is more likely.

If Uefa does get tough with the Poles, it could also expel the national side from the European Championship qualifiers—in which Poland are in the same group as England.

The Wolves striker Dougie Freedman is set to complete his delayed move to Nottingham Forest. The deal appeared to have broken down last week when the player announced he was staying despite the two clubs having agreed a £900,000 fee, but yesterday he said he had agreed a four-year deal.

"The delay was only a contractual thing at Wolves," the former Crystal Palace striker said. He will replace Kevin Campbell, who is on his way to the Turkish club Trabzonspor, at the City Ground. Dave Bassett, the Forest manager, yesterday denied reports that another Turkish side, Fenerbahce, had made a £7m bid for the unsettled Dutch striker, Pierre van Hooijdonk.

Blackburn Rovers have suffered another setback after losing their second centre-back in the space of two days. The England Under-21 defender Marlon Brown—widely rated as Colin Hendry's replacement for the early weeks of the new Premiership season—will be out of action for at least a month.

Brown's injured ankle ligaments in a training accident and will be in plaster for the next three weeks. With the Norwegian defender Tore Pedersen also ruled out with a knee injury, the Rovers manager, Roy Hodgson, has admitted that he needs to move quickly on the transfer front, following Hendry's move to Rangers. "We only have two senior central defenders in Darren Peacock and Stéphane Henchoz, and that clearly isn't enough," Hodgson said.

The Aston Villa striker Stan Collymore looks likely to be fit for the opening game of the Premiership season at Everton on 15 August.

The Villa manager, John Gregory, had ruled Collymore out of his plans for the next three weeks after the striker suffered a thigh strain in a pre-season friendly against Peterborough last Friday, but the former Liverpool man has been able to make a swift return to training.

Venables attacks super league brokers

TERRY VENABLES yesterday admitted that he believed a European super league was "inevitable", because of the "grasping" nature of people in the modern game. The former England manager, who takes charge of his first game back at Crystal Palace on Saturday, said: "The game is now so big, no one can afford, economically or socially, not to be part of it and everyone wants their part of that pot of gold. They are all grasping for it."

"The Champions' League is very exciting but that is just tickling the

surface. It is spreading the gospel for what will be in the future. Once it is squeezed dry we will be on to the next thing."

Venables, who was speaking at the launch of the Rothmans Football Yearbook, warned: "I'm for progress, but I don't like exclusive clubs. If they take away competition they are taking away the heart of our game."

"You have got to earn the right to be in it and win it. Everyone must have a chance."

Venables feels that both of this year's English entrants into the

Champions' League have a chance. "Both clubs [Arsenal and Manchester United] could go right through to the very end. They are better equipped to represent us than ever before. Manchester United have good experience over several years and while Arsenal do not have that as a team, their players have experience."

"Football has always been a good television sport in this country, because of its pace. Now quality has been brought in, it still makes good TV. But we are also learning to

change the pace of the game, which we have never been good at in the past."

Arsenal and Manchester United meet in the Charity Shield at Wembley on Sunday, but the match will be watched as much for the fans' reaction to David Beckham as for the performances of the teams. Beckham was made a scapegoat for England's World Cup failure and Venables said: "The huge reaction to the game these days has a downside as well as an upside. We must get some kind of proportion: even his

family have been under threat. But everything is out of proportion now; maybe his wages, maybe his popularity—or lack of it."

"People talk about him going overseas but there is nowhere for him to run: the world is too small. It is high-risk money and you have to take the stick. This is a strange country, it might turn around, people will say 'that's not fair' and then they will clap him."

"It is a very thin line," Venables concluded. "Look at Beckham and Michael Owen. It is a question of

whether you get caught. One gets a penalty, one gets sent off."

The 29th Rothmans is the third to feature a "team of the season", which this year includes nine Arsenal players, plus Owen and Manchester United's Gary Neville. The book does not, however, contain a picture of Doncaster Rovers, who were relegated to the Vauxhall Conference last season, could not provide one—perhaps, suggested the editor, Glenda Rolin, because they did not have a team.

Two 'fined' prize-money for breach of drug rules

ATHLETICS
BY PETER MARTIN

TWO ATHLETES, including a world junior record-holder from Kenya, have had their prize-money withheld from World Championship events which took place this year because of a breach of the sport's anti-doping rules. It is the first time in athletics, which has been a professional sport for little more than a decade, that financial sanctions rather than suspensions have been applied.

The decision was taken by the world governing body, the International Amateur Athletic Federation, at a meeting last month. "The prize-money of two athletes, due to them after the World Cross-country Championships in Marrakech and the World Road Relay Championship in Manaus, Brazil, will not be paid," Istvan Gyulai, the IAAF secretary, said.

The total amount withheld amounts to nearly \$50,000 (£35,000). "The two athletes had undergone

only one out-of-competition test instead of the required two during the 12-month period prior to the competitions, a condition to be eligible to win competition awards," said Gyulai.

The two athletes are believed to be a Romanian woman runner and Paul Kosgei, the 20-year-old Kenyan who, last year at the Stockholm Grand Prix meeting, set a world junior best for the 3,000 metres steeplechase of 8min 07.69sec.

Last night, Kosgei's manager, the Italian agent Gianni De Madonna, expressed his outrage. "The IAAF acted very quickly but they never wrote to me or contacted the athlete. I only found out because the money owed to Kosgei was missing from the amount that they paid over."

"They have stopped \$35,000 from Paul, which is a lot of money for a young athlete, especially these days, when there is no appearance money, and you can only get prize-money in European track meetings if you finish in the top eight."

World sports governing bodies are placing increasing emphasis on the importance of out-of-competition testing as a means of deterring cheats. It was at an out-of-competition test in Kibweyo in January when the urine sample of the Olympic gold medal swimmer, Michelle de Bruin, was tampered with, resulting in the four-year ban which was handed down yesterday. Prior to that test, De Bruin had missed at least three out-of-competition tests in the previous two years, but the rules of Fina, the swimming world body, had no effective sanctions for such evasiveness.

Yesterday, the IAAF was at pains to stress that the punishment was not because of any suggestion of a failed drug test or any refusal to test by the sanctioned athletes.

De Madonna said the claim that the IAAF could not find the athletes for a second test was "bullshit". "They are just trying to make examples of these two athletes. If I don't get an explanation from the IAA, I will take action," he said.

English clubs lose French allies

RUGBY UNION
BY CHRIS HEWETT

THE AUDACIOUS attempt by England's professional clubs to hijack the European rugby scene looked dead in the water last night, fatally undermined by the very French teams they considered their most valuable allies. Toulouse and Bègles-Bordeaux finally bowed to intense pressure from their own federation and agreed to participate alongside Stade Français, Perpignan and Colomiers in next season's official, establishment-backed tournament.

"I suspect that is the end of the

story," admitted Doug Ash, the chief executive of English First Division Rugby, the Premiership clubs' umbrella organisation. "We see Toulouse, in particular, as a hugely influential club, a major opinion former in France. Without their support it will be very difficult to put together a quality competition."

In essence, the English now have two choices: either to swallow their pride and strike a late peace accord with the directors of European Rugby Cup Ltd, the organisers of the last three Heineken Cup tournaments, or stick to the ill-conceived boycott they announced in January. "Of course we still want the English,"

said one ERC insider yesterday. "The competition is hopelessly devalued without them. Bath are the champions of Europe, for heaven's sake, and they are champions of great stature. The tournament will go ahead come what may, but it would be a whole lot better from all points of view, for the players as well as the sponsors and broadcasters, with the best of England on board."

Graham Smith, one of the more diplomatic members of the Rugby Football Union's management board, was attending today's ERC meeting in Dublin and the RFU will participate in Six Nations Committee talks aimed at breaking the im-

passee. Even Ash felt able to open the door a little by saying: "I can't really see the clubs agreeing to such a volte face but you never say never."

Ash and his colleagues suffered a second blow yesterday when the RFU refused to approve the clubs' initial batch of Premiership fixtures covering the first five weeks of the new season, scheduled to begin on 5 September. The list left space for "competitive friendlies" against Cardiff and Swansea, the two clubs in dispute with the Welsh Rugby Union, but Twickenham spiked the idea by insisting that all 14 top-flight English teams should play a Premiership match every weekend.

ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM.

Draw Date: 5/8/98. The winning numbers: 13, 35, 38, 40, 42, 47. Bonus number: 34.
Total Sales: £28,399,925. Prize Fund: £12,779,966 (45% of ticket sales).

CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 6 (Jackpot)	1	£4,550,122	£4,550,122
Match 5 plus Bonus ball	4	£350,009	£1,400,036
Match 5	283	£3,091	£874,753
Match 4	19,366	£99	£1,917,234
Match 3	402,973	£10	£4,029,730
TOTALS	422,627		£12,779,966

© Camelot Group plc. Players must be 16 or over.

IT COULD BE YOU! THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

In the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Camelot's central computer system shall prevail.

Jockeys ready to revolt

By SUE MONTGOMERY

TWO YEARS before the arrival of the 21st century the spectre of feudalism may still be fitting around racing's corridors of power. One of the sport's problems is that it has traditionally been factionalised, and one rift, that between jockeys and their masters, is rapidly growing.

The catalyst is that of a late 20th century phenomenon, sponsorship. Jockeys wish, like most modern professional sportsmen, to sell bits of their clothing for commercial gain. The British Horseracing Board, which administers that aspect of the game on behalf of horse owners, wants to maintain a degree of control which the riders regard as untenable.

The confrontation has been bubbling under for nearly a year but is now threatening to become a geyser. The Jockeys' Association, the riders' trade body, holds its annual meeting 12 days hence and weighing-room characters with as high a profile as Richard Dunwoody, John Reid and Tony McCoy have been drawing lines in the sand.

The sticking point is not sponsorship itself. The BHB is entirely committed to the concept and a scheme for allowing advertising space on riders' breeches and boots agreed last October is due to come into effect on 1 November. But under the blanket of the agreement lies the pea; a clause giving owners the power of veto over sponsorship of which they do not approve.

It could be invoked because of a clash of business interests - though of some 17,385 registered owners in Britain only 4,800 have any sort of sponsorship - or because an owner did not want his horse ridden by an equestrian version of a logo-spotted Formula One driver.

But the jockeys feel it will compromise their ability to negotiate deals and regard it as an impossible situation.

So, the threat of militancy is in the air. Michael Caulfield, the Jockeys' Association secretary, would reveal only that there will not be a strike. "We have action planned that will not upset any owner, trainer, punter, racegoer or even journalist but may well embarrass the BHB. And there will be an element of surprise."

Caulfield is mystified by the attitude of the 11-strong Board, which has recently elected as its chairman, Peter Savill, one of the country's most prominent equine proprietors and a former president of the Racehorse Owners' Association.

And, though often placatory in his role as riders' spokesman and mediator, Caulfield, a former stable lad and proud of it, does not mince words on this occasion. "This seems to be vindictive and hypocritical resistance purely on social grounds," he said. "There seems to be some sort of resentment among a minority of directors that jockeys are going to make money from sponsorship. We all know that the top men can already make a very good living from the sport and are set to make more from sponsorship. But what is wrong with that? I'm not jealous of Michael Owen. He seems to be pretty good at his job and deserves every penny he can make."

"But not every professional sportsman has that sort of exceptional talent. And if we can introduce a group scheme for jockeys it will be of most help to the ordinary lads in the lower order; turn a £25,000-a-year jockey into a £27,500-a-year jockey. But this veto clause means that it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to negotiate a group or individual deal."

No one denies that owners are the linchpins of a sport that can also be a business, not to say an industry, and that many of their recent gripes about racing's funding have a fair foundation. But the days of an owners' autocracy have surely passed and it is difficult not to disagree with the jockeys' arguments for a free market.

Owners are, for the large part, involved in racing as a hobby. The people they employ are professionals, in many cases more highly regarded in their occupation than the owner would be in his or hers. And being a jockey can be a precarious living; it is one of the few where an ambulance follows the participants around as a matter of course.

"In other sports, conflicting sponsors co-exist happily," Caulfield said. "Footballers wear boots made by their shirt's direct competitor. The South African cricketers have Castrol Lager on their shirts and play at The Fosters Oval. And even in racing last year when Cape Verdi, with Grosvenor Casinos plastered all over John Reid, won the Stakes Stakes, the parties involved were adult enough not to give a hoot."

The Jockeys' Association has offered the ROA 10 per cent of any sponsorship deal negotiated if the power of veto is dropped. But that, as far as the BHB is concerned, is not an option. "It was discussed," said the Board's chief executive, Tristram Ricketts, playing a straight bat yesterday, "but the directors expressed no wish to reconsider. It was felt that the owner should have the right to veto sponsorship."

And here lies the impasse: whether the jockey is an employee, and be told what he can or cannot do, before or after he agrees to ride an owner's horse.

"The grand financial plan presented by Peter Savill to cure racing's ills is based on self-help," Caulfield added. "We are trying to help ourselves and are being blocked. And if this is sending the right messages to Government, then I am Michael Owen."

"All we are looking to do is benefit a group of sportsmen who are tolerant, courageous and not overpaid, and who are the ones who become stars and raise the profile of racing, to the benefit of all. But in one fell swoop the BHB - or a tiny minority of it, for I am sure most owners are totally relaxed about what we want - has managed to alienate that group."

"We once had a problem with an insurance scheme. The ROA's attitude was that jockeys were self-employed and should make their own arrangements. Now the attitude seems to be 'I employ you and you will do what you are told'. They have shafted us from top to bottom and the jockeys will return the compliment with bouquets."

Saddled and confused

RACING NARROWLY avoided its second embarrassing mix-up inside a week at Haydock yesterday. Five days after the wrong Jack Berry-trained horse ran at Hamilton, Bryan McMahon came perilously close to confusing his two runners in a handicap at the Lancashire course.

He transposed the saddles on his pair, General Klair and Ra Ra Rasputin, but his mistake came to light as jockey John Egan and Kieren Fallon prepared to board. Had it not been spotted the pair would have been disqualified for carrying the wrong weight.

The two horses were re-saddled and the race was run with General Klair finishing sixth and Ra Ra Rasputin 14th.

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Nap: Swynford Dream (Ascot 7.30)
NB: Premier Generation (Ascot 3.05)

A new racecourse scheme for East London was unveiled yesterday by the property developer Wiggins Group. Planned for a site at Fairlop, the track would require the BHB to allocate fixtures for it to be viable.

ASCOT

2.30 Double Oscar 4.10 Fabrice (nb)
3.05 Titta Ruffo 4.40 Klak
3.35 Emplane (map) 5.15 Assured Gamble

GOING: Good to Firm.
STALLS: Straight course - stands side; round course & old mile - inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.
■ Right-hand course with testing uphill finish, too straight.
■ Course is near junction of A25 and A30. Access from M3 (Junc 3) and M4 (Junc 6). Railway station (service from London, Waterloo) adjoins course. ADMISSIONS: Members £75 (25-year-old half-price); Grandstand & Paddock £10; Silver Ring £5. CAR PARK: Nos 1, 2 & 3, 5A, remainder free.
■ LEADING TRAINERS: J. Dunlop 27-53 (72%), S. C. Williams 21-77 (27%), J. Gosden 21-124 (63%), H. Cecil 16-98 (63%), R. Hannon 15-97 (79%).
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: L. Dettori 47-25 (63%), J. Reid 29-48 (63%), P. Eddery 27-55 (63%), R. Hills 16-58 (63%), M. Hills 16-55 (63%), K. Fallon 10-82 (63%).
■ FAVOURITES: 2.30 Double Oscar (5), 4.10 Fabrice (nb) (5), 3.05 Titta Ruffo (5), 3.35 Emplane (map) (5).
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Amy Martin (2.30), Diamond White (3.35).

2.30 RENNIE DEFLATINE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £10,000 added 5lb Penalty Value £7,458

1. 004-01 RUSCHUTTER BAY (5) (R. Hannon) 5.10 (J. Dunlop) 11.10 (J. Gosden) 22.82
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The pleasure of the big business

TODAY, AT the end of a long and worthy campaign, Longobardi leaves the field of battle that is Standa Life Cowes Week.

Mike Slade's 80ft maxi, which has been carrying the colours and sailing under the name of Bombay Sapphire, goes back to Hamble this weekend. There she will be put on a cradle until she is sold, along with Slade's other 80-footer, the David Alan-Williams-designed Ocean Leopard.

Slade, a Cornishman, has an almost boyish enthusiasm for sailing and for nearly everything else he talks about. He thoroughly enjoys having the biggest skateboard on the block, but has had to make sure that these wickedly expensive-to-run machines pay their way commercially.

While the day job is running Helical Bag, a property investment and development company, he enjoys running the yachts, although his high handicap rating has made it almost impossible for him to win any of the major trophies in the yacht's swan-song week.

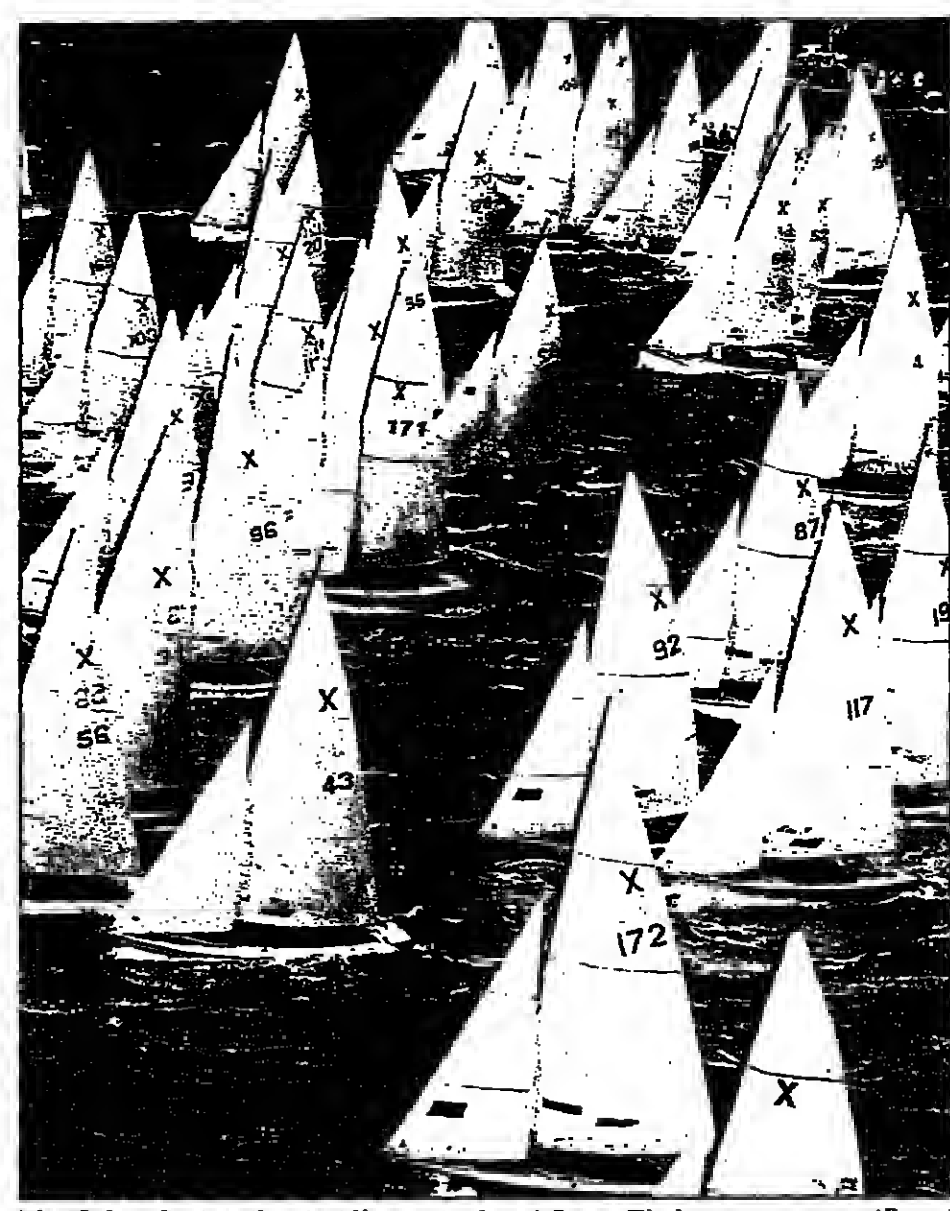
The thrill about comes from sailing such a big and powerful machine with a largely professional crew. "It's just great to

A magnificent maxi retires from the water after providing some real pleasure. By Stuart Alexander

have Chris Law and his match race team, Julian Satter and James Stagg, alongside the Whitbread likes of Jason Carington of Silk Cut, Paul Quinn of Merit Cup, Shag Morton, representing the experienced side of youth, Kelvin Rawlings, Russell Pickthall, and that impressive lady round the world, Emma Westmacott."

While he still keeps a three-masted Etchells at Lynton, and a Wayfarer dinghy at his house in Rock, Cornwall, he is a big boat man through-and-through. "I could have a 40 or 50-footer, but if you can have a big boat at half the price, why not? And anyway, I am not good enough as a helmsman on the 40 or 50-foot circuit."

He likes, just as much, to be "chairman" of the boat and running the charter company. "It is quite an undertaking putting the whole circus together, but the orchestration of the team is very satisfying. And I could not justify a boat this size if I was just sailing it



The X class fleet on the start line yesterday at Cowes Week

Protests after race debacle

THE "RADIOGATE" problem of sorting out the Class Two's race on Tuesday took an extra twist yesterday. It was announced that the boats who came first, second and third would, instead, be awarded average points, while the fourth-placed boat, Chris Jago's Flamboyant, would be winner of the Aisler Salver.

The confusion arose after the Royal Yacht Squadron announced first course, then another to be sailed around the Solent. The amended course was repeated, but 23 of the competing yachts failed to register and sailed the original course, which was the same as Class One.

The race was won by Stephen Fein's Full Pelt, and Jago said yesterday that he was first unhappy to be awarded the race this way and, left to his own, he would share the prize with Graham Deegan, a friend who crews on Full Pelt.

Second-placed Jonty Sherwill, sailing the boat he and Stephen Jones designed for Ken Trench, Diva, was even less happy. He was last night seeking to protest the judgement of the jury and Full Pelt's Jo Richards was curious to know how the Squadron had

TODAY'S NUMBER

2

The number of times Orlando Pirates' Naughtie Mokoena was booked during a South African league match, but the referee forgot to show Mokoena the red card, so he finished the game.

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

ASCOT

2.30: DOUBLE OSCAR, back to form with a vengeance at Goodwood, is still not badly weighted under a 6lb penalty, he actually won at 5lb higher mark than today's in the spring, and may well be up to winning again. If Alex Greaves can tick him in from his outside draw, Double Oscar has the pace to outgun these late on. River Tern, back on more suitable ground, is not a forlorn hope despite his 33-1 morning line price and is a feasible outsider.

3.05: TITTA RUFFO, most unlucky in running when seventh at Premier Generation at Sandown recently, should go close if granted a clear passage on this occasion. Party Renaissance may pose the most problems.

3.35: EMPLANE, a comfortable Newmarket winner last time, is progressing nicely and may well be up to handling this hike in grade. She only has a few pounds to find with Goodwood winner Ascot Cyclone but has more scope for improvement than that more seasoned filly.

FIRST SHOW

Ascot 2.30

Horse	C	H	L	T
High Carry	7-1	8-1	8-1	8-1
Double Oscar	9-1	8-1	8-1	8-1
Party Renaissance	8-1	16-1	16-1	16-1
High Carry	12-1	14-1	14-1	14-1
Mell Tones	10-1	12-1	11-1	10-1
Evening Prospects	12-1	12-1	14-1	14-1
Party Renaissance	14-1	14-1	12-1	14-1
Stavford Dancer	14-1	12-1	14-1	12-1
Double Oscar	14-1	16-1	16-1	14-1
High Carry	14-1	16-1	14-1	14-1
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High Carry	14-1	16-1		

Cronje error lets Butcher off the hook

THE SOUTH African side has been held up as the most disciplined bunch of cricketers around today. They may not have players with real flair, Allan Donald and Jody Rhodes apart, but they bat long, they bowl tight, they stop everything in the field and scarcely drop a catch. They are efficiency personified.

Hansie Cronje may appear to be a cold fish and is not an "up boys and at 'em" sort of captain. In appearance, he would make an ideal leader of a particularly ascetic religious movement. But it would be hard to imagine a more determined captain or one who leaves less to chance.

He is dour and he is dedicated to the job of leading South Africa to victory. The Old Testament prophet, Elia, would have captained his side to much the same way.

Those around Cronje are of a like mind. There is Ali Bacher, the managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, Bob Woolmer, the coach, and the players under him. There is no one there who would ever stumble and put play before work.

A side founded on such principles will surely have come into a Test match as important as this one fine-tuned to a rare degree. Nothing should have been left to chance. Yet, the most extraordinary aspect of this ab-



HENRY BLOFELD
AT HEADINGLEY

sorbing first day was how the South Africans did not get it quite right.

By now, they should have acquired a working knowledge of the ways of Mark Butcher. They have had to suffer three decent opening partnerships between him and Mike Atherton before this. They know how he likes to come on to the front foot and drive if he is given half a chance.

They also know that he loves nothing more than to play the ball away off his legs. If they had forgotten, they will have been reminded in the first over of the match when he played Dooland to the square-leg boundary.

Did they learn the lesson? Not a bit of it. For the rest of the day, it was almost as if they fed

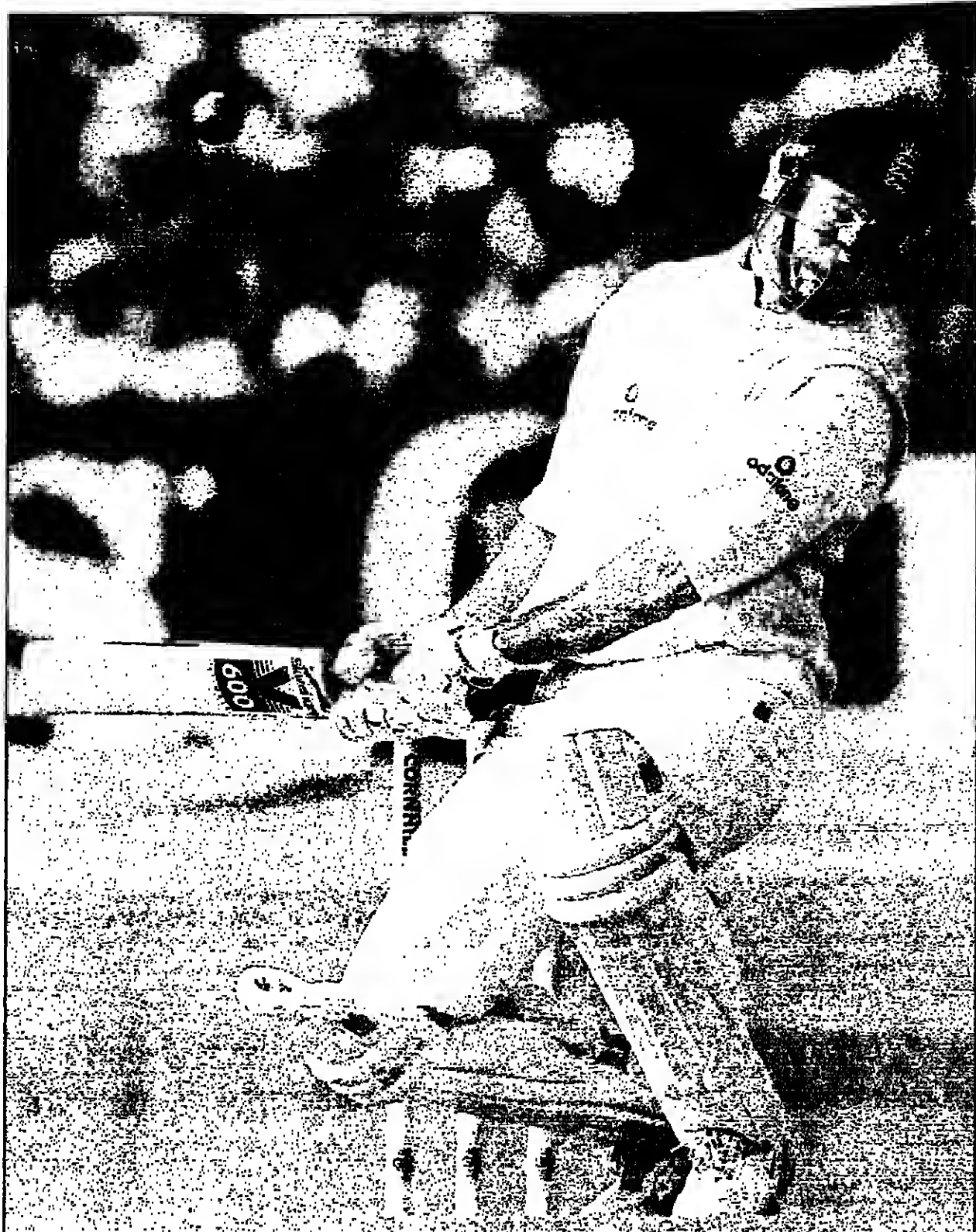
these strokes on purpose. Butcher scored a huge proportion of his runs from them both and yet Cronje, maybe refusing to believe in the mere mortality of his bowlers, made little attempt to block either.

Some captains and some bowlers feel that feeding a batsman his favourite stroke will prompt a fatal error. This obviously depends on how well the particular stroke is played. There is no future in bowling at Butcher's pads for he is word perfect in that area.

There is more to hope outside the off stump as he can be persuaded to go for the drive when the ball is not quite there for it.

Brian McMillan proved this point beautifully in successive overs after tea when Butcher moved from 93 to 101 with flashing drives which flew off the edge for fours.

By now Butcher had been joined by Mark Ramprakash who likes to play the square cut, but does not control the stroke. Quite rightly, the South Africans gave him every chance to go for it and after a certain amount of playing and missing and uppish contact which did not go to hand, Donald found his bottom edge. Apart from McMillan, they did not bowl so thoughtfully at Butcher. Had they done so England's total might have been even less.



Graeme Hick takes evasive action from an Allan Donald bouncer at Headingley yesterday

David Ashdown

Feeble Somerset roll over and die

BY MIKE CAREY
at Leicester

Somerset 74 and 112
Leicestershire 271
Leicestershire win by an innings and 85 runs

LEICESTERSHIRE, WELL aware that they must win at least five of their six remaining matches to stay in contention for the Championship, began by disposing of Somerset here yesterday with two days and a full session to spare.

James Ormond emerging with match figures of 9 for 62 and Vince Wells 16 for 42 applied the coup de grace. Somerset, dismissed in 28 overs in their first innings, held on for 51 the second time and were left to contemplate a performance lamentably short of footwork or application.

Worse, they seemed to lack any kind of appetite for saving the game and it was no surprise to learn inquiries had been made about golf on Saturday.

Cricket has its own way of dealing with such a feeble megalomaniac. With the pitch looking a lighter shade of pale after its morning mow and the ball only swinging moderately, any self-respecting side should have dug in.

Maybe Somerset's confidence was at a low ebb after their first-innings shambles. Whatever was going through their minds, their captain, Peter Bowler, soon set the agenda by getting out in the third over to a very wide ball from David Mills.

After that no one, apart from Richard Harden, was prepared to battle it out. Poor stroke selection or the lack of discipline brought one downfall after another and in 27 overs they were reduced to 51 for 5. When Harden's selectivity at last let him down and he steered a half-volley into square leg's hands that was virtually that.

Let nothing devalue Leicestershire's purposeful cricket, though. They looked like a team full of self-belief and their out cricket was stunningly effective. They held 16 catches, some quite brilliant, and dropped nothing, at least as far as the distant observer could tell. Moreover, they have in Ormond a fast bowler who is fitter than most at this late stage of the season.

The other good news for Leicestershire was the return to form of Darren Maddy, who carefully paced himself to his second Championship hundred of the season from 206 balls. So carefully, in fact, that he was clearly very angry with himself when he got out booking, even though his dismissal owed everything to a brilliant catch on the boundary by Andrew Caddick.

Butcher rolls back the years Weekes drops anchor

BY DAVID LLEWELLYN
at The Oval

Surrey 333; Derbyshire 46-2

SO BUTCHER played for Surrey after all... after all this time, it is 12 years since Alan Butcher last wielded a blade for the London side, and half a dozen since he appeared in his last first-class match, when he scored 59 not out for Glamorgan against Northampton at Luton. And while he was making a little bit of history for the championship leaders, Surrey, his son Mark was heading for his maiden Test hundred at Headingley.

Statisticians' fingers flicked through some after some of record books in search of similar father-and-son feats (none were unearthed). The pair had already been the first to play against each other in a Sunday

League match back in 1991. Surrey had put Butcher Sr on standby on Wednesday night at 10.30pm while he was with the second XI, for whom he had made a duck in Taunton. His selection was confirmed 12 hours later and he dashed to London.

Butcher's call-up came about because Surrey had suspended their opener, Jason Ratcliffe, following an undisclosed breach of discipline arising from their AXA League defeat on Wednesday evening. They thus started against Derbyshire without three Test players (Butcher, Jnr, Alec Stewart, and Ian Salisbury), and three other meo ruled out through injury—Graham Thorpe, Darren Bicknell and Alex Tudor.

So, at 44, Alan Butcher went out to bat for the county he left in 1986, his last innings a duck against Gloucestershire at Chel-

tenham. The gap of 12 years was not the longest by a Surrey player; that honour went to Herbert Thompson, who played in 1896, his next appearance (when he too was coach) coming 13 years later in 1909.

Butcher emerged at the fall of the sixth wicket and, having been greeted by the umpire, Mervyn Kitchen, donning his hat, announced his arrival by driving his first ball through extra cover to the boundary.

He had hit three more and seen Alistair Brown reach his fourth century of the season before falling lbw to Kevin Dean—a left-arm pace bowler who is half his age—having scored a respectable 22.

"I didn't feel nervous," Butcher said later, "but it was a strange morning."

Butcher lasted 45 minutes and was back in the pavilion in

time to learn of Mark's feat at Headingley. "I'm delighted for him. It's a great weight off his shoulders. Unfortunately I didn't see any of it because we don't have the television on during play. But someone heard it on the radio and told me."

It was difficult to focus on the game with all the side-shows and statistics, but through it all Derbyshire's slow left-arm bowler, Ian Blackwell, in his first championship match since May, was quietly working his way through the Surrey batting, finishing with the first five-wicket haul of his career. And there was more discipline on the field from Surrey as Brown garnered a harvest of runs carefully and brutally by turn, until he had arrived at the 18th first-class hundred of his career. By the close Surrey had just got the edge with two early wickets.

BY JOHN COLLIS
at Lord's

Warwickshire 466
Middlesex 194-4

THE CURTAIN suddenly came down on the Brian Lara show after two overs yesterday, when he was stranded in front of his stumps to a ball that kept low. The bowler was the persistent and frugal Richard Johnson, the only Middlesex performer to take satisfaction from the home side's performance against the West Indian captain.

Lara had tempted fate by declaring his intention of batting on until he had doubled his first-class aggregate for the season with this single innings. Though he was left 194 runs short, his rehabilitation was surely complete.

Having already scored

enough runs to make the game safe, Warwickshire pressed on in bizarre fashion. When Phil Tufnell came on almost an hour into the day Smith immediately went down on one knee and carried a ball destined for the midwicket boundary.

Instead it struck forward short-leg David Nash a borboll blow to the chest, turning the shot into a slowly looping catch to Paul Weekes 20 yards from the bat.

Ashley Giles and Tim Munton enjoyed themselves for another hour and then gave Warwickshire a brief grasp of the new ball before lunch.

Munton, the tall, lumbering pace bowler lost all of last season—and subsequently the captaincy—to a back injury. After just one Championship game this season he tore a

hamstring. Two early wickets after David Goodchild's suicidal run out completed Munton's recuperation, and reduced Middlesex to 61 for 3.

Significantly, the wickets included that of the richly in-form Justin Langer, and the follow-on target looked days away.

While Weekes dropped a cautious anchor, Owais Shah took charge of the recovery. In his third county season but still only 19, with an England A tour under his belt, Shah has always batted beyond his years. This was a valuable liaison which Weekes continued with the acting captain, Keith Brown.

Even if a match can be won, there are still bonus points to graft for, and Weekes ground on beyond his 50. While England capitulated there was something to be said for watching old-fashioned cussedness.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Britannic Assurance Championship

Surrey v Derbyshire

THE POSTERS' OVAL (Day 1 of 4): Derbyshire (4 pps) are trailing Surrey (3 pps) by 287 runs with 6 first-innings wickets in hand

SURREY — First Innings
Runs 6s 4s Bts Min
J J Ward b Blackwell... 26 0 4 60 67
N N Barry c Barnett b DeFreitas... 21 0 4 22 33
N Shubert b Blackwell... 12 0 0 13 25
A J Holliday c Nankin b Blackwell... 5 0 0 7 11
A D Brown c Roberts b Blackwell... 132 1 16 179 195
B C Hollock c Roberts b Clarke... 12 0 2 34 33
J A Knott b Blackwell... 0 0 0 13 3
A R Butler c Dean... 32 0 4 38 38
N P Bicknell c Barnett to Dean... 42 0 4 59 69
S Gifford c Nankin b Dean... 21 0 5 36 38
R M Armit not out... 2 0 0 3 7
Extras (nb 10, nb 2)... 7
Total (88 overs)... 333
Fall: 1-25, 2-52, 3-57, 4-148, 5-189, 6-198, 7-238, 8-267, 9-322

Derbyshire (Day 2 of 4): Kent (6 pps) are leading Hampshire (4 pps) by 304 runs with 7 second-innings wickets in hand
Runs 6s 4s Bts Min
J S Lamey c Fulton b Headley... 0 0 0 15 18
J P Stephenson c Ealham b McCague... 21 0 0 27 44
G Chappe c Alleyne b Hooper... 12 0 0 18 105
N A Smith c McCague b Hooper... 22 0 0 18 105
I A N Aynes c Patel b Hooper... 28 0 2 77 92
A D Mascarenhas c Marsh b McCague... 4 0 1 7 11
K O James c Hooper b Headley... 1 0 0 45 45
S Uddal c Marsh b McCague... 2 0 0 19 28
A C Morris not out... 2 0 0 15 28
N A R McLean c Fulton b Hooper... 4 0 1 5 4
P J Hartley c McCague b Hooper... 0 0 0 2 0
Extras (nb 3, nb 8)... 11
Total (56.4 overs)... 173
Fall: 1-15, 2-34, 3-47, 4-163, 5-156, 6-156, 7-159, 8-168, 9-173

Hampshire — First Innings
Runs 6s 4s Bts Min
J S Lamey c Fulton b Headley... 0 0 0 15 18
J P Stephenson c Ealham b McCague... 21 0 0 27 44
G Chappe c Alleyne b Hooper... 12 0 0 18 105
N A Smith c McCague b Hooper... 22 0 0 18 105
I A N Aynes c Patel b Hooper... 28 0 2 77 92
A D Mascarenhas c Marsh b McCague... 4 0 1 7 11
K O James c Hooper b Headley... 1 0 0 45 45
S Uddal c Marsh b McCague... 2 0 0 19 28
A C Morris not out... 2 0 0 15 28
N A R McLean c Fulton b Hooper... 4 0 1 5 4
P J Hartley c McCague b Hooper... 0 0 0 2 0
Extras (nb 3, nb 8)... 11
Total (56.4 overs)... 173
Fall: 1-15, 2-34, 3-47, 4-163, 5-156, 6-156, 7-159, 8-168, 9-173

Gloucestershire — First Innings
Runs 6s 4s Bts Min
J S Lamey c Fulton b Headley... 0 0 0 15 18
J P Stephenson c Ealham b McCague... 21 0 0 27 44
G Chappe c Alleyne b Hooper... 12 0 0 18 105
N A Smith c McCague b Hooper... 22 0 0 18 105
I A N Aynes c Patel b Hooper... 28 0 2 77 92
A D Mascarenhas c Marsh b McCague... 4 0 1 7 11
K O James c Hooper b Headley... 1 0 0 45 45
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A C Morris not out... 2 0 0 15 28
N A R McLean c Fulton b Hooper... 4 0 1 5 4
P J Hartley c McCague b Hooper... 0 0 0 2 0
Extras (nb 3, nb 8)... 11
Total (56.4 overs)... 173
Fall: 1-15, 2-34, 3-47, 4-163, 5-156, 6-156, 7-159, 8-168, 9-173

Essex v Glamorgan
CHELMSFORD (Day 2 of 4): Glamorgan (6 pps) are leading Essex (6 pps) by 48 runs with 9 second-innings wickets in hand
Runs 6s 4s Bts Min
J S Lamey c Fulton b Headley... 0 0 0 15 18
J P Stephenson c Ealham b McCague... 21 0 0 27 44
G Chappe c Alleyne b Hooper... 12 0 0 18 105
N A Smith c McCague b Hooper... 22 0 0 18 105
I A N Aynes c Patel b Hooper... 28 0 2 77 92
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N A R McLean c Fulton b Hooper... 4 0 1 5 4
P J Hartley c McCague b Hooper... 0 0 0 2 0
Extras (nb 3, nb 8)... 11
Total (56.4 overs)... 173
Fall: 1-15, 2-34, 3-47, 4-163, 5-156, 6-156, 7-159, 8-168, 9-173

Leicestershire v Somerset
LEICESTER (Day 2 of 4): Leicestershire (22 pps) have Somerset (4 pps) by an innings and 85 runs
Runs 6s 4s Bts Min
J S Lamey c Fulton b Headley... 0 0 0 15 18
J P Stephenson c Ealham b McCague... 21 0 0 27 44
G Chappe c Alleyne b Hooper... 12 0 0 18 105
N A Smith c McCague b Hooper... 22 0 0 18 105
I A N Aynes c Patel b Hooper... 28 0 2 77 92
A D Mascarenhas c Marsh b McCague... 4 0 1 7 11
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P J Hartley c McCague b Hooper... 0 0 0 2 0
Extras (nb 3, nb 8)... 11
Total (56.4 overs)... 173
Fall: 1-15, 2-34, 3-47, 4-163, 5-156, 6-156, 7-159, 8-168, 9-173

Gloucestershire v Leicestershire
GLoucestershire (Day 2 of 4): Gloucestershire (3 pps) are leading Leicestershire (3 pps) by 217 runs with 6 second-innings wickets in hand
Runs 6s 4s Bts Min
J S Lamey c Fulton b Headley... 0 0 0 15 18
J P Stephenson c Ealham b McCague... 21 0 0 27 44
G Chappe c Alleyne b Hooper... 12 0 0 18 105
N A Smith c McCague b Hooper... 22 0 0 18 105
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P J Hartley c McCague b Hooper... 0 0 0 2 0
Extras (nb 3, nb 8)... 11
Total (56.4 overs)... 173
Fall: 1-15, 2-34, 3-47, 4-163, 5-156, 6-156, 7-159, 8-168, 9-173

**Old Trafford (Day 2 of 4): Gloucestershire (3 pps) are leading Lancashire (3 pps) by 217 runs with 6 second-innings wickets in hand
Runs 6s 4s Bts Min
J S Lamey c Fulton b Headley... 0 0 0 15 18
J P Stephenson c Ealham b McCague... 21 0 0 27 44
G Chappe c Alleyne b Hooper... 12 0 0 18 105
N A Smith c McCague b Hooper... 22 0 0 18 105
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Total (56.4 overs)... 173
Fall: 1-15, 2-34, 3-47, 4-163, 5-156, 6-156, 7-159, 8-168, 9-173**

Lancashire v Gloucestershire
Lancashire (Day 2 of 4): Lancashire (3 pps) are leading Gloucestershire (3 pps) by 217 runs with 6 second-innings wickets in hand
Runs 6s 4s Bts Min
J S Lamey c Fulton b Headley... 0 0 0 15 18
J P Stephenson c Ealham b McCague... 21 0 0 27 44
G Chappe c Alleyne b Hooper... 12 0 0 18 105
N A Smith c McCague b Hooper... 22 0 0 18 105
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P J Hartley c McCague b Hooper... 0 0 0 2 0
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Total (56.4 overs)... 173
Fall: 1-15, 2-34, 3-47, 4-163, 5-156, 6-156, 7-159, 8-168, 9-173

Essex v Glamorgan
CHELMSFORD (Day 2 of 4): Glamorgan (6 pps) are leading Essex (6 pps) by 48 runs with 9 second-innings wickets in hand
Runs 6s 4s Bts Min
J S Lamey c Fulton b Headley... 0 0 0 15 18
J P Stephenson c Ealham b McCague... 21 0 0 27 44
G Chappe c Alleyne b Hooper... 12 0 0 18 105
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J S Lamey c Fulton b Headley... 0 0 0 15 18
J P Stephenson c Ealham b McCague... 21 0 0 27 44
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J S Lamey c Fulton b Headley... 0 0 0 15 18
J P Stephenson c Ealham b McCague... 21 0 0 27 44
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G Chappe c Alleyne b Hooper... 12 0 0 18 105
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Moody in the mood to pile on the runs

CRICKET

TOM MOODY'S fourth Championship century of the season put Worcestershire in a strong position with a first-innings lead of 125 against Nottinghamshire at Kidderminster.

The Australian all-rounder, who captains both his county and Western Australia, has now made 39 of his 63 first-class hundreds during eight county campaigns with Warwickshire and Worcestershire.

Moody's 112 helped his side to 289, and Nottinghamshire - despite a career-best 6 for 63 by Paul Franks - were still 25 behind when they reached the close at 100 for 2.

Unlike in previous seasons when the Chester Road pitch produced runs galore, this one has given a more even contest - partly because of a thicker grass covering. For much of the second day, it was a battle between Moody and the pace and lift of the talented England Under-19 all-rounder, Franks.

The 19-year-old removed an overnight hold-up by dismissing David Letherdale for 36 with his third ball, Paul Strang holding a good catch at backward point to end the stand of 77. Steve Rhodes (44) then put on 112 in 40 overs with Moody, but it might have been terminated much earlier if the wicketkeeper Chris Read had held an inside edge during an 11-over spell by Chris Tolley.

Franks came back after lunch to have Steve Rhodes snapped up from a more routine chance to Read, and the young wicketkeeper also held an edge from Moody off leg-spinner Strang. The seamer completed his third five-wicket return of the season when Phil Newport (26) misplaced a cut, and he then made Matthew Ramsley his sixth victim with a slip catch. Stuart Lampitt (20) was last out, giving a return catch to Tolley.

Essex, missing several leading batsmen, found it tough going against Glamorgan at Chelmsford. Their progress was so laboured that they needed 111.5 overs to gather a total of 260 in reply to the visitors' 288. By the close, Glamorgan had moved to 20 for 1 in their second innings for an overall advantage of 48.

With Stuart Law and Paul Prichard on the casualty list and Nasser Hussain away on England duty, it was always likely Essex would struggle, even though Glamorgan were without the injured Wagar Younis and Steve Watkins. Darren Robinson scored 21 overs making 14; Tim Hodgson scored 35 in an effort spanning 37 overs, while Paul Grayson needed 180 deliveries to collect 59. The most entertaining innings of the day came from Ronnie Irani, who made 51 from 80 balls.

Brittin hits 146 to enter record books

England 414
Australia 99-1

IT WAS a day for the record books as runs flowed and Jan Brittin claimed an excellent place in the history of women's cricket in the first Test between England and Australia at Guildford yesterday.

Brittin's innings of 146 was her highest in Tests, and with a career aggregate of 1,631 she became the leading Test run-scorer in the women's game. The previous highest scorer was the former England captain, Rachel Heyhoe-Filt, with 1,594 runs. England's eventual 414 was their best against Australia in 34 Test matches.

Brittin's marathon eight-hour innings ended when she was run out after yet another mid-pitch mix-up by England. The 39-year-old Brittin had hit 13 fours and a five.

Australia went into bat after tea on the second day and England were immediately rewarded with the key wicket of Belinda Clark.

On 11, the Australian captain fended off a delivery from left-arm seamer Lucy Pearson and the recalled Suzanne Redfern snapped it up at short leg.

The England captain, Karen Smithies, turned to the leg-spin of Cathryn Leng as early as the 11th over. Leng, Charlotte Edwards and left-arm seamer Clare Connor extracted some turn but there were still too many loose deliveries which Australia punished with ease.

At stumps Lisa Keightley, who had been dropped behind off Edwards, was on 45, and Joanne Broadbent was on 36.



On her way: Laura Davies launches her drive from the first tee yesterday at the McDonald's WPGA Championship at Gleneagles

Chris Bacon/PA

Davies tames the elements

GOLF

BY ANDY FARRELL
at Gleneagles

FEELING SORRY for estate agents does not come naturally, especially when they are on a healthy commission on a deal worth over £100m, but the day after it was put up for sale, Gleneagles, the brainchild of a former managing director of the Caledonian Railway Company, was not to be seen at its best yesterday.

When it was not blowing a gale or pouring with rain, the low cloud hid the glories of the Perthshire hills. Out on the King's Course, where the

madly tilting flagsticks carried the sponsor's logo, those playing in the first round of the McDonald's WPGA Championship were tested to full on James Braid's timeless masterpiece. Laura Davies could not have been happier with a level par 72, matched by her playing partner Helen Alfredsson.

It was a day to throw out the yardage book. "It takes up your golfing senses," said Alfredsson, the defending champion. "You couldn't put yourself on automatic. The yardage was only a guide - it was always one or two clubs more or less than usual."

With only a handful of players managing to get to one under par, including Trish John-

son, Catriona Matthew and Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, Davies was delighted with her position and a forecast of more of the same in the meteorological. "It was not pleasant out there but, as for my chances in the tournament, the rougher it is the better it is for me," she said. "The players at the top of the leaderboard are the ones that relish these conditions."

But, conscious that women's golf needs to do everything it can to promote itself, Davies was also hoping the weather would improve. "This is not good for TV or for the galleries," she said. "They are battling the elements as well, I looked at them with the rain

going sideways and wondered what they were doing out there. I don't think I would have been."

The Englishwoman had never seen a holed putt long than the 26-yarder Alfredsson sank on the fifth but the Swede also three-putted five times. Two of these came at par-fives when she stood over an eagle putt, including at the last, which made for a frustrating finish.

While others had described how short putts, with the ball oscillating on the green, can be the worst part of playing in a strong wind, Alfredsson was, characteristically, not having any of it. "I think it was more me," she said. "My putting was pretty disgusting."

The third member of the group was Mhairi McKay, the Scot who contended at the US Women's Open and who recovered from an outward 41 here to finish on two over. McKay, whose appearance in this tournament a year ago was her last as an amateur, has become a candidate for a wild card selection for the Solheim Cup team - but has said she has a prior commitment as bridesmaid at her sister Fiona's wedding.

"I don't disagree with that," said Davies. "Some things are more important than the Solheim Cup. Not many, but there are some." Davies' own brother will get married during the Ryder Cup next year to ensure

his sister can attend. Darren Clarke yesterday pulled out of next week's USPGA Championship to remain with his wife and newly born son.

The great love in Johnson's life is Arsenal FC and only last week she was fined for wearing a replica shirt, although so far the 32-year-old who learned her golf at the exposed links of Westward Ho! has only read about it in the papers.

As for her team joining a breakaway super league, Johnson is not a fan. "I'm not for it," she said. "It won't be the same without it we are not playing West Ham or Tottenham and all those shocking teams at the bottom!"

Smith has to wait for success

EQUESTRIANISM

BY GENEVIEVE MURPHY
in Dublin

ROBERT SMITH followed a double from the Whitaker family yesterday, when he rode Senator Tees Hanauer to another British success on the second day of the Kerrygold Dublin Horse Show.

Smith had a long wait before getting his 18-year-old partner back on the road less than two weeks ago. In January, when he was coming back into work after recovering from an injury sustained last year, the horse had to undergo a serious operation for colic, and then needed another long rest.

Tees Hanauer, the Grand

Prix winner here last year, showed that he has forgotten nothing in his absence when, second to go in yesterday's seven-horse jump-off, Smith rode him to a swift clear round. Tom Slattery, who followed him, was being cheered home as a likely home victor on Collier Mor Hill until over-running Smith's time by the tiny margin of 0.06sec. Another Irishman, Edward Doyle on Windgates King Kol, filled third place.

Smith is riding here as an individual and was therefore not eligible for the British team in today's Kerrygold Nations Cup. Ronnie Massarella, the Great Britain team manager, has named Nick Skelton to go first on Virtual Village Hopes are

High. He will be followed by Di Lampard on Abbervall Dream, James Fisher on Renville and John Whitaker on Diamond Cliff.

Whitaker's mount, who will be jumping in his first Nations Cup, had looked too impetuous before the treble in yesterday's contest when he made the first of two errors. Abbervall Dream was clear, but Lampard then retired him after an early jump-off error.

Both John Whitaker and his 14-year-old son, Robert, recorded wins earlier in the day. John's victory was achieved with an inspired round, which combined accuracy with breathtaking speed on the grey stallion Virtual Village Randi, with whom he had won here on Wednesday. Never one to swagger,

Whitaker looked mildly bemused when a fellow competitor told him: "You are the one who makes it all worthwhile. It is a pleasure and a privilege to watch you." Horse and rider were in perfect harmony as they sped round the arena, clearing fences from a rhythmic stride. They won by 3.75sec, with the talented County Galway rider, Tom Slattery, taking the first of his runner-up prizes - this time with Clover Brigade.

Robert Whitaker's win on the 13-year-old mare, Correlli Bravo, was gained by a mere 0.27sec from David Broome's son, Matthew, on Shoot for the Stars. Both are now qualified for tomorrow morning's championship for 148cm ponies.

Henman overcomes Canas to keep on roll

TENNIS

TIM HENMAN'S fine run of form continued in Toronto as he progressed to the third round of the Du Maurier Open with a hard-fought victory over Guillermo Canas.

The British No 2, who reached the Mercedes Open final in Los Angeles last week before losing to Andre Agassi, recovered from a set down to knock out the Argentinian 3-6, 7-6, 6-2 on Wednesday.

Henman, who is seeded seventh here, was joined in the next round by Pete Sampras, who beat Gianluca Pozzi 6-1, 6-2, in his first match since winning Wimbledon. The American,

who had minor foot surgery on 15 July, will lose his place at the top of the world rankings to Marcelo Rios if he loses in Toronto.

A ticket for the men's singles final at Wimbledon next year will now cost £60, an increase of £4 on this year's price. Centre Court and No 1 Court ticket prices for each of the 13 days of the tournament have been increased.

There is no change in the ground admission charges, however: £10 for the first five days; £5 for the middle Saturday; £10 for the second Monday; £5 on days eight, nine and 10; £7 on days 11 and 12 and £3 on the last day.

SPORTING DIGEST

ATHLETICS

WEDNESDAY'S LATEST RESULTS: IAAF Grand Prix (Birmingham): 100m: 10.8 (US) 1.00; 200m: 21.8 (US) 1.00; 400m: 1.00 (US) 1.00; 800m: 2.00 (US) 1.00; 1,600m: 4.00 (US) 1.00; 3,200m: 8.00 (US) 1.00; 6,400m: 16.00 (US) 1.00; 12,800m: 32.00 (US) 1.00; 25,600m: 64.00 (US) 1.00; 51,200m: 128.00 (US) 1.00; 102,400m: 256.00 (US) 1.00; 204,800m: 512.00 (US) 1.00; 409,600m: 1,024.00 (US) 1.00; 819,200m: 2,048.00 (US) 1.00; 1,638,400m: 4,096.00 (US) 1.00; 3,276,800m: 8,192.00 (US) 1.00; 6,553,600m: 16,384.00 (US) 1.00; 13,107,200m: 32,768.00 (US) 1.00; 26,214,400m: 65,536.00 (US) 1.00; 52,428,800m: 131,072.00 (US) 1.00; 104,857,600m: 262,144.00 (US) 1.00; 209,715,200m: 524,288.00 (US) 1.00; 419,430,400m: 1,048,576.00 (US) 1.00; 838,860,800m: 2,097,152.00 (US) 1.00; 1,677,721,600m: 4,194,304.00 (US) 1.00; 3,355,443,200m: 8,388,608.00 (US) 1.00; 6,710,886,400m: 16,777,216.00 (US) 1.00; 13,421,772,800m: 33,554,432.00 (US) 1.00; 26,843,545,600m: 67,108,864.00 (US) 1.00; 53,687,091,200m: 134,217,728.00 (US) 1.00; 107,374,182,400m: 268,435,456.00 (US) 1.00; 214,748,364,800m: 536,870,912.00 (US) 1.00; 429,496,729,600m: 1,073,741,824.00 (US) 1.00; 858,993,459,200m: 2,147,483,648.00 (US) 1.00; 1,717,986,918,400m: 4,294,967,296.00 (US) 1.00; 3,435,973,836,800m: 8,589,934,592.00 (US) 1.00; 6,871,947,673,600m: 17,179,869,184.00 (US) 1.00; 13,743,895,347,200m: 34,359,738,368.00 (US) 1.00; 27,487,788,694,400m: 68,719,476,736.00 (US) 1.00; 54,975,577,388,800m: 137,438,953,472.00 (US) 1.00; 109,951,154,777,600m: 274,877,906,944.00 (US) 1.00; 219,902,309,555,200m: 549,755,813,888.00 (US) 1.00; 439,804,619,110,400m: 1,099,511,627,776.00 (US) 1.00; 879,609,238,220,800m: 2,199,023,255,552.00 (US) 1.00; 1,759,218,476,441,600m: 4,398,046,511,104.00 (US) 1.00; 3,518,436,952,883,200m: 8,796,093,022,208.00 (US) 1.00; 7,036,873,905,766,400m: 17,592,186,044,416.00 (US) 1.00; 14,073,747,811,532,800m: 35,184,372,088,832.00 (US) 1.00; 28,147,495,623,065,600m: 70,368,744,177,664.00 (US) 1.00; 56,294,991,246,131,200m: 140,737,488,355,328.00 (US) 1.00; 112,589,982,492,262,400m: 281,474,976,710,656.00 (US) 1.00; 225,179,964,984,524,800m: 562,949,953,421,312.00 (US) 1.00; 450,359,929,969,049,600m: 1,125,899,906,842,624.00 (US) 1.00; 900,719,859,938,099,200m: 2,251,799,813,685,248.00 (US) 1.00; 1,801,439,719,876,198,400m: 4,503,599,627,370,496.00 (US) 1.00; 3,602,879,439,752,396,800m: 9,007,199,254,740,992.00 (US) 1.00; 7,205,758,879,504,793,600m: 18,014,398,509,481,984.00 (US) 1.00; 14,411,517,759,009,587,200m: 36,028,797,018,963,968.00 (US) 1.00; 28,823,035,518,019,174,400m: 72,057,594,037,927,936.00 (US) 1.00; 57,646,071,036,038,348,800m: 144,115,188,075,855,872.00 (US) 1.00; 115,292,142,072,076,697,600m: 288,230,376,151,711,744.00 (US) 1.00; 230,584,284,144,153,395,200m: 576,460,752,303,423,488.00 (US) 1.00; 461,168,568,288,306,790,400m: 1,152,921,504,606,846,976.00 (US) 1.00; 922,337,136,576,613,580,800m: 2,305,843,009,213,693,952.00 (US) 1.00; 1,844,674,273,153,227,161,600m: 4,611,686,018,427,387,904.00 (US) 1.00; 3,689,348,546,306,454,323,200m: 9,223,372,036,854,775,808.00 (US) 1.00; 7,378,697,092,612,908,646,400m: 18,446,744,073,709,551,616.00 (US) 1.00; 14,757,394,185,225,817,292,800m: 36,893,488,147,419,103,232.00 (US) 1.00; 29,514,788,370,451,634,565,600m: 73,786,976,294,838,206,464.00 (US) 1.00; 59,029,576,740,903,269,111,200m: 147,573,952,589,676,412,928.00 (US) 1.00; 118,059,153,481,806,538,222,400m: 295,147,905,179,352,825,856.00 (US) 1.00; 236,118,306,963,613,076,444,800m: 590,295,810,358,705,651,712.00 (US) 1.00; 472,236,613,927,226,132,889,600m: 1,180,591,620,717,411,303,424.00 (US) 1.00; 944,473,227,854,452,265,779,200m: 2,361,183,241,434,822,606,848.00 (US) 1.00; 1,888,946,455,708,904,531,539,400m: 4,722,366,482,869,645,213,696.00 (US) 1.00; 3,777,892,911,417,809,063,078,800m: 9,444,732,965,739,290,427,392.00 (US) 1.00; 7,555,785,822,835,618,126,157,600m: 18,889,465,931,478,580,854,784.00 (US) 1.00; 15,111,571,645,671,236,252,315,200m: 37,778,931,862,957,161,709,568.00 (US) 1.00; 30,223,143,291,342,472,504,630,400m: 75,557,863,725,914,323,419,136.00 (US) 1.00; 60,446,286,582,684,945,009,260,800m: 151,115,727,451,828,646,838,272.00 (US) 1.00; 120,892,573,165,369,890,018,521,600m: 302,231,454,903,657,293,676,544.00 (US) 1.00; 241,785,146,330,739,780,037,043,200m: 604,462,909,807,314,587,353,088.00 (US) 1.00; 483,570,292,661,479,560,074,086,400m: 1,208,925,819,614,629,174,706,176.00 (US) 1.00; 967,140,585,322,959,120,112,173,120,000m: 2,417,851,639,229,258,349,412,352.00 (US) 1.00; 1,934,281,170,645,918,240,224,246,240,000m: 4,835,703,278,458,516,698,824,704.00 (US) 1.00; 3,868,562,341,291,836,480,448,492,480,000m: 9,671,406,556,917,033,397,649,408.00 (US) 1.00; 7,737,124,682,583,672,960,896,984,960,000m: 19,342,813,113,834,067,795,298,816.00 (US) 1.00; 15,474,249,365,167,345,921,793,969,920,000m: 38,685,626,227,668,135,590,597,632.00 (US) 1.00; 30,948,498,730,334,691,843,587,937,840,000m: 77,371,252,455,336,271,181,195,264.00 (US) 1.00; 61,896,997,460,669,383,687,175,575,680,000m: 154,742,504,910,672,542,362,390,528.00 (US) 1.00; 123,793,994,921,338,767,375,351,151,360,000m: 309,485,009,821,345,084,724,781,056.00 (US) 1.00; 247,587,989,842,677,534,750,702,302,720,000m: 618,970,019,642,690,169,449,562,112.00 (US) 1.00; 495,175,979,685,355,069,501,404,604,440,000m: 1,237,940,039,285,380,338,899,124,224.00 (US) 1.00; 990,351,959,370,710,138,002,809,208,888,880,000m: 2,475,880,078,570,760,677,798,248,448.00 (US) 1.00; 1,980,703,918,741,420,276,005,617,617,777,776,000m: 4,951,760,157,141,521,354,596,496,896.00 (US) 1.00; 3,961,407,837,482,840,552,011,235,235,555,552,000m: 9,903,520,314,283,042,109,181,191,191,191.00 (US) 1.00; 7,922,815,674,965,681,104,022,470,470,470,470,000m: 19,807,040,628,566,082,208,362,362,362,362.00 (US) 1.00; 15,845,631,349,931,362,208,044,940,940,940,940,000m: 39,614,081,257,132,164,016,724,724,724,724.00 (US) 1.00; 31,691,262,699,862,724,408,089,888,888,888,888,000m: 79,228,162,594,264,816,163,448,448,448,448.00 (US) 1.00; 63,382,525,399,725,648,163,696,177,777,777,777,000m: 158,465,165,188,528,326,326,896,896,896,896.00 (US) 1.00; 126,765,050,799,451,296,327,392,355,555,555,555,000m: 316,912,330,377,056,652,652,792,792,792,792.00 (US) 1.00; 253,530,101,598,902,592,654,784,711,111,111,111,000m: 633,825,375,944,112,128,128,384,384,384,384.00 (US) 1.00; 507,060,203,197,805,184,128,153,856,409,409,409,000m: 1,267,650,751,888,224,256,256,768,768,768,768.00 (US) 1.00; 1,014,120,406,395,610,368,256,311,712,817,817,817,000m: 2,535,301,503,776,448,512,512,1,536,1,536,1,536.00 (US) 1.00; 2,028,240,812,791,220,736,512,623,423,423,423,000m: 5,088,603,007,552,896,1,024,1,024,1,024,1,024.00 (US) 1.00; 4,056,481,625,582,440,1,024,1,024,1,024,1,024,000m: 10,177,206,015,112,1,024,1,024,1,024,1,024.00 (US) 1.00; 8,112,963,251,164,880,1,024,1,024,1,024,1,024,000m: 20,354,412,030,224,1,024,1,024,1,024,1,024.00 (US) 1.00; 16,225,926,502,329,760,1,024,1,024,1,024,1,024,000m: 40,708,824,060,448,1,024,1,024,1,024,1,024.00 (US) 1.00; 32,451,853,004,658,512,1,024,1,024,1,024,1,024,000m: 81,417,648,120,896,1,024,1,024,1,024,1,024.00 (US) 1.00; 64,903,706,111,316,1,024,1,024,1,024,1,024,000m: 162,835,296,241,792,1,024,1,024,1,024,1,024.00 (US) 1.00; 129,807,412,232,632,1,024,1,024,1,024,1,024,000m: 325,670,592,483,584,1,024,1,024,1,024,1,024.00 (US) 1.00; 259,614,824,464,126,1,024,1,024,1,024,1,024,000m: 651,341,184,967,168,1,024,1,024,1,024,1,024.00 (US) 1.00; 519,229,648,928,252,1,024,1,024,1,024,1,024,000m: 1,302,682,369,934,336,1,024,1,024,1,024,1,024.00 (US) 1.00; 1,038,459,297,856,504,1,024,1,024,1,024,1,024,000m: 2,605,364,739,868,672,1,02

LAW

UN goal posts

Sir: Richard Butler, chief United Nations weapons inspector would seem to have again moved the goal posts for the lifting of the embargo on Iraq. The stumbling block last February was inspections of the presidential palaces, but now a new set of conditions has evolved ("Saddam and West back to the brink..." 5 August).

Further, the crisis in February was due directly to Mr Butler's assessment that Iraq had enough chemical and biological weapons to affect every one on earth. One vial the size of a small finger, could decimate the population of London, we were told. When the crisis was over, Mr Butler, in an interview with the BBC, was posed the question: "A month ago we nearly went to war with Iraq on your word that Iraq had enough chemical and biological weapons to affect the entire world. Is this true?" After considerable silence, Butler replied: "This is what we are trying to find out."

Richard Butler's statement that Iraq has developed VX nerve gas, another reason for further inspections, is faithfully parroted in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Daily Bulletin (4 August). It may or may not be true, but the evidence for this came from a United States military laboratory, with no independent scientists present. It is for that reason that further tests in France and Switzerland were agreed and as yet there is no outcome on these tests. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office also reiterates Mr Butler's statement that there are 4,000 chemical weapons unaccounted for. This, again, may or may not be the case, but another new goal post is that the documentation now demanded embraces the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war when both Britain and the US were supplying, in effect, both sides - a war with carnage that has been compared to the First World War and from which a great deal is unaccounted for in paperwork, weapons and human beings.

Israel's Prime Minister talked of the worry of the entire world: "We like everyone else are watching this thing carefully and we know what to do." Yet Israel has never officially acknowledged having nuclear weapons, has decimated Southern Lebanon, where it only this week tried out a new missile, killing one person - and is never subject to serious pressure or censure from the United Nations.

Britain with US funds is to assist Iraqi opposition groups here, many of whom have less than unblemished reputations. "We will work with anyone who is against Saddam." Hardly a recipe for democracy in Iraq.

In February, in the Middle East, it was assessed that more British than American flags were hurt. I was there and the anger was tangible - and in spite of diplomatic efforts from the West - united. Such double standards and another assault on Iraqi civilians (in defiance of even the Geneva Convention) will ring on down the generations in the Middle East and the developing world, and the words "ethical foreign policy" will, I predict, head the chapters. FELICITY ARBUTHNOT
London E9

The word of God

Sir: What on earth do these bishops mean, or think they mean, by the word "Scripture"? Perhaps we should have another Lambeth Conference to talk the matter out. When Bishop Chukuma (for example) quotes 1 Corinthians 6:9 to your reporter Clare Garner ("How I felt the wrath of a bishop", 6 August) and again at Jeremy Vine and Richard Kier on BBC2's *Newswatch*, what particular translation is he thinking of? Translation it must be, for the original Greek has not one word that might comfort his aggressive and rather comical bigotry.

Historically, the tap root of Anglican values was a measured protestant carefulness in the use of Scripture. Richard Hooker: the

first codifier, and to a great extent the founding father of Anglicanism, wrote: "We must take great heed, lest in attributing to Scripture more that it can have, the incredibility of that do cause even those things which indeed it hath most abundantly to be less reverently esteemed. I therefore leave it to themselves to consider whether they have in this point oversteered themselves."

Hooker's English has toughness and difficulty. To some his words this passage may be all Greek. But is it possible that to Bishop Chukuma the Greek in which his own sacred Scriptures are written is as impenetrable as Hooker's English? MICHAEL HALLS
Christow, Devon

Sir: So the Bishop of Mityana, Uganda, refused to hear a presentation from lesbian and gay Christians for "the same reason we would not let a prostitute give her ideas to the conference" (report, 4 August). Does this man really represent Christ, one who welcomed the company of prostitutes in the face of the Pharisee's prejudice (Luke 7, 36-50) and who warned the hypocritical leaders of the established religion that they would be preceded into heaven by the "tax collectors and the prostitutes" (Matthew 21, 31). The bishop might heed these words, lest he find himself on the Day of Judgement being forced to surrender his seat to a homosexual! PAUL DAVIES
Bristol

Sir: On the subject of homosexuality and the church ("Anglican Summit split on gay rights", 1 August) it is worth considering that usury is condemned by both Old and New Testaments at least as strongly as homosexuality.

If we object to homosexuals in

the church, presumably we should also object to anyone involved in banking even if they are not gay. We could take the view that usury can be stopped by the grace of God, albeit with pain and struggle, and that financial relationships between people should not include charging interest; after all it is the teaching of the Bible (and, until recently, of the church universal) that such activity is a barrier to God.

On the other hand, we could believe the church should accept and support or bless such practices and ordain people who have investment portfolios. RJAQUES
Liverpool

Rooted racism

Sir: Although highly disturbing, Dr Oakley's findings of institutional racism in the Metropolitan Police ("Police accused of racist culture", 3 August) will come as no

Sir: Regarding America's "Bill & Monica" saga, ex-MP Clement Freud gave some potent advice years ago. The droll doggie food man said: When challenged on sex, don't waste your breath on denials. Admit the lot. With a wellington boot, with a jam doughnut or even with a woman. MAX NOTTINGHAM
Lincoln

Sir: Surely the crisis in the recruitment of nurses can be solved by the Department of Health running glossy advertisements, "Why nobody forgoes a nurse"? MINAJI
Horrocks, Middlesex

Sir: To the ongoing debate

surprise to those of us whose explorations of racism takes them into institutional settings, be they open or closed. I chaired the independent inquiry into the death of Orville Blackwood in Broadmoor Hospital in 1993. He was a young Afro-Caribbean offender patient with a history of schizophrenic illness. Two earlier reports into the deaths of two other Afro-Caribbean patients, which were asked to re-evaluate, had found no direct evidence of racism in Broadmoor and many of the witnesses at our inquiry did not believe that it was a problem in the hospital. However, we were of the firm opinion that such views were "based on an interpretation of racism founded on very crude measures" and that the staff and management just did not recognise the subtle ways in which racism could operate. We concluded that there was racism in Broadmoor, but not on the whole deliberate or necessarily

conscious; rather it was an extreme lack of sensitivity to the needs and cultural differences of ethnic minority patients. Of our 47 recommendations, several were directed at ethnic issues. These included the need to appoint black staff at senior management level and to have black representation on the managing health authority. We also offered to return to the hospital to monitor the implementation of our recommendations - an offer firmly declined at that time. Somewhat ironically, a few weeks ago, I was asked to return to Broadmoor to participate in a seminar examining how successful the hospital had been in developing its anti-racist policies and practices. I learnt that there were still no black members of senior management, neither was there any black representation on the managing health authority. It also appeared that there were even fewer black staff working on the wards than at the time of our

inquiry. All institutions are notoriously impervious to change; the only way to bring about such change is to make them more openly accountable. Sadly, we still have a long way to go. HERSHEL PRINS
Loughborough, Leicestershire

Lives lived

Sir: The article "How do you live with the death of a child?" (4 August) raises some interesting aspects of how people cope following the death of a child; in all these cases it was sudden and this is something we, as parents, have not experienced. However, our two sons were born with a rare immunological problem, only identified when they were five and six, after several years of intermittent infection problems. They died aged 19 and 20 respectively - in the same year and, like many other parents, we had coped with an ongoing illness for many years, always hoping that medical science would keep "one jump ahead". I had to come to terms with the fact that I was the guilty person who had passed on the defective gene. We had only admiration and praise for the two hospitals involved - we knew they did their utmost with many difficult situations over the years. How did we cope? We kept ourselves very busy and would always include "the boys" in conversations. We support the charity researching into this disease. We have questioned ourselves since, that perhaps we thought of ourselves too much and maybe our daughter needed that more support. However, she has come through well; she has been tested and does not carry the defective gene and has now three healthy boys who are a delight to us. We only have one chance in life and it is to be lived. CAROL AND DAVID YATES
Evesham, Hereford and Worcester

Dialectics

Sir: The controversy surrounding the removal of northern English accents from the characters Wallace and Gromit to those of Middle England in order that foreign students can more easily learn English from them, shows a fundamental misunderstanding of language ("Cracking northern accent, Gromit", 3 August). In fact French and Spanish students have expressed a view to me that English spoken with a light regional accent is easier to understand than so-called standard English because the vowel sounds are fully spoken in such regional accents. The suppression of vowel sounds in establishment English is an apparent attempt to distinguish English from its German and French roots. This had the comical effect during the recent World Cup of a television commentator declaring that the Geordie accent from Tyneside as being indecipherable, when in reality this dialect is one of the forms of English least adulterated by the influence of Norman French. The unfortunate result of this cosseting of the English language is that it is often claimed that English people are arrogant towards other languages, when in reality they find the uninhibited speech of other languages exaggerated and comical.

HUGH REES
Pontypridd
South Wales

Sir: The excellent cartoon series lost its northern accent because it had been adapted to the teaching of English as a foreign language. The foreign students studying English are taught using Standard English because the exams they eventually have to take in their own countries, often as conditions of acceptance to further study courses abroad or even immigration procedures, are given in Standard English. The day the venerable examiners of the RSA, Cambridge University and the other numerous examining groups setting standards for foreign students start to set questions in Lancashire dialect, it will be perfectly legitimate to complain that the Wallace and Gromit cartoons have been somehow devalued. Wallace and Gromit have not suffered some snobby toning-down, but have been transformed into a most enjoyable and effective tool for the teaching of English. MARTIN WRAGG
Bristol

Doubting scientists

Sir: Christopher Hill (Letter, 5 August) attacks John Gribbin in promoting science as a Good Thing on the grounds that "science usually leads to technocratic arrogance", that "scientists can be as venal as any other professional" and that "science is increasingly commercialised". Sadly, all three observations are true and as such are grounds for criticism of the way scientists all too frequently behave; they are not, however, valid grounds for criticism of science as a way of trying to elucidate facts to the best of human ability.

Real scientists are well aware of their fallibility; but to quote Richard Feynman again: "The scientist has a lot of experience with ignorance and doubt and uncertainty, and this experience is of very great importance, I think. When a scientist doesn't know the answer to a problem, he is ignorant. When he has a hunch as to what the result is, he is uncertain. And when he is pretty darn sure of what the result is going to be, he is still in some doubt. We have found it of paramount importance that in order to progress we must recognise our ignorance and leave room for doubt. Scientific knowledge is a body of statements of varying degrees of certainty - some most unsure, some nearly sure, but none absolutely certain." It is this sort of integrity, whether we label it scientific or not, that we need to encourage. FRANK MOSS
Peterborough

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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In the fifth of our series on car boot sales, a hopeful vendor displays his wares at a sale in Beccles, Norfolk

Brian Harris

IN BRIEF

about the national anthem may I add the suggestion that the UK like Denmark adopt two anthems namely a royal anthem to be sung/played whenever the monarch or her deputy is present in a formal capacity and secondly a national anthem to be performed at sports games and the like. As the royal anthem I would think that "God Save the Queen" might be appropriate, whereas the more popular "Land of Hope and Glory" would serve amply as a national anthem. KNUD VMOLLER
Stoke-on-Trent

Sir: The saddest part about Ken Livingstone's visit to

County Hall's restaurant came at the end of the article "Limited access for the disabled". As a frequent visitor to County Hall during Mr Livingstone's incumbency, I witnessed the very visible presence of people with disabilities as part of the workforce, which was very unusual at that time and which I have yet to see replicated. It was obvious that there had been policy decisions to try to include people rather than to justify their exclusion. I hope that London's new Lord Mayor will have the vision to make sure that all people, at all levels, are represented in the workforce of the new administration. GRETA SANDLER
London SE26

Why I sometimes worry about a dingbat as big as the Ritz

I SOMETIMES worry about Jeffrey Archer. Not a lot, you understand, I have other things to do as well. Raise a family, make a living, argue with Jehovah's Witnesses, look up words in the dictionary, and so on. But sometimes in the time that is left to me I worry about Jeffrey Archer, and what it is like being in that mind of his.

For instance, he crops up in *The Guardian* on 1 August, in that strange new little pull-out supplement called *The Editor*...

Have you spotted that *The Guardian* has sprouted yet another little supplement? The *Guardian* people have obviously noticed that nobody can read all the papers these days, which is why there are new digest publications like *Cover* and *The Week*, but *The Guardian* doesn't want people rushing off and

buying those, so they have decided to do it themselves, and they now produce a weekly thin magazine called *The Editor* which brings you - and I quote their banner heading - "The Best Of The World's Media Edited For You". I suppose that reads better than "The *Guardian*'s Attempt to Compete with New Weekly Magazines Like *The Week*".

Anyway, in *The Editor* of 1 August 1998 there was a reprint of a brief interview with Jeffrey Archer which had previously appeared in *Mensa Quest*, a magazine of which till that moment I had been ignorant. It wouldn't have said that an interview with Jeffrey Archer represented the best of the world's media, whether edited for me or anyone else, but let it pass. Of course it wasn't really an interview

it was one of those little questionnaires which used to be popular as a household game in about 1900 and have come back again as a lazy form of journalism, where in the interviewee is faced with questions (printed in bold) such as "What is the last film you saw?" and the interviewee says, in a light typeface, "Sliding Doors".

Well, the *Mensa* questionnaire pops a few questions about brain power, such as "If you had to make a choice, which would you rather lose - your looks or your brains?" (to which Archer replies accurately but winningly, "To be honest, I don't think it would be a problem either way") but also asks him: "If you went on *Mastermind*, what would your specialist subject be?" Archer's answer is: "The works of F Scott Fitzgerald."

This I find slightly surprising, although I suppose there are parallels between the two. Fitzgerald had one or two early successes, lost his skills and slid into a disreputable old age.



MILES KINGTON

Fitzgerald had one or two early successes, lost his skills and slid into a disreputable old age

one or two early smash hit successes which he never repeated, losing his skills and sliding into a disreputable old age...

What am I saying? There are no parallels at all.

But here is Jeffrey Archer again, in the *Radio Times* last May, facing a questionnaire of exactly the same kind, with questions in bold, and answers in light. We learn that Hancock's *Half Hour* is Archer's all-time favourite TV programme (parallels again there, as Hancock's character was a vainglorious, ambitious but rather sad and self-deluding figure - what am I saying? There are no parallels at all...) and then we come to familiar territory, because *Radio Times* asks him: "On *Mastermind*, what would be your specialist subject?"

Hey, we know that! It's the works of F Scott Fitzgerald! Except that it's not. When asked the question by the *Radio Times*, Archer said: "The short stories of Somerset Maugham." That's one of the reasons why I worry about Jeffrey Archer. Because he can't remember which specialist subject he's going to offer on *Mastermind*.

Why is this? Has he simply forgotten who his favourite writer is? Does he switch from favourite author to favourite author with deceptive ease? Can he not remember when faced with a questionnaire, which answer he made up last time so that he can repeat it this time? Does he think that people who ask him questions deserve value for money, so he will give a different answer every time?

Still, I can see why Jeffrey Archer is drawn to Somerset Maugham. Maugham was a master story-teller who, when he had run out of stories from his own experience, used to borrow stories he had heard other people tell, or even borrow stories he heard at third-hand, and retell them as his own, and who didn't talk much about his own private life as there were several episodes in it which he preferred to keep quiet about...

What am I talking about? There are no parallels at all. Still, if ever I am asked what subject I would answer questions on if invited to go on *Mastermind*, I know now what I will say. "I would like to answer questions on what Jeffrey Archer says he would answer questions on if he ever got asked on *Mastermind*."

Handwritten signature: Miles Kington

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Secrecy should have no part in a modern democracy

INFORMATION - THE Government's attitude towards it, our right to access it - is the essence of several of the most important stories in the news this week; a week that also saw the Freedom of Information Act (which the Labour Party committed itself to completely when in opposition) apparently drop off the legislative agenda entirely after only a year in power. Admittedly newspapers tend to be more concerned about this issue than, say, hospitals do. But this milestone is important because it is one that every British Government in recent years has passed. A Freedom of Information Act was in the offing in 1974, as was reform of the Official Secrets Act in 1979. Both failed. It is to the Labour Party's shame that this time their Act did not make it through Parliament in the double-quick time promised before the election. Somewhat inevitably the desire of our new Government to pass such measures was outstripped by a creeping sense of comfort with the status quo.

The first information story is David Shayler, that least James Bond-ian recruit to Her Majesty's secret service. Whether he is telling the truth about the MI6 plot to kill Colonel Gaddafi or whether it is a part of a wider plan to boost his own profile in order to eventually sell books (or both), it is clear that the Government has shot itself in the foot by trying to keep him quiet. Granted: there is a deep level of public fascination, reflected in the media, with the cloak-and-dagger stuff.

In some senses it is a peculiarly British fetish, drawing on our tendency to keep quiet unless specifically told not to and a history of believing ourselves to be in possession of secrets worth keeping. But these days it is also fuelled by *The X-Files* on television, disenchantment with elected national government in the context of increasing global multilateralism and the conspiracy theorist in all of us. For all these reasons, David "licensed to log on" Shayler would have made the news anyway.

But by preventing this failed journalist and civil servant from publishing his allegations, the Government gave them a credibility they would not otherwise have had, and also drew attention to them. Ironically too, in this particular case, the Official Secrets Act which makes his behaviour an offence is the same thing that has hamstrung attempts to extradite him from France. Because there is no equivalent all-encompassing gagging order for ex-employees of the French Government, his extradition will probably take months, if it happens at all.

The second information-related story is the report,



or rather two reports, being published about the role of spin doctors in the Government. Apparently Labour members of a Government committee charged with writing about Alastair Campbell have been nobbled by, um, Alastair Campbell, prompting the Liberal Democrats and Conservative committee members to produce their own minority report.

This specific approach to information is particularly instructive. For what we have here are the men - Tony Blair, Peter Mandelson, Alastair Campbell - whose understanding of the importance of maintaining control of their party and its media coverage was born during the Labour Party's chaotic 1980s. The lesson was

learned the hard way. But now they are in power they appear not to have expanded their new-found media skills beyond the confines of the Labour Party and outwards to the Government and, most important, the electorate. Instead they are getting tripped up by the very issue of freedom of information.

Pagers with little red roses on them and a rootin' tootin' information system called Excalibur are apparently vital for the smooth running of the people's Labour Party. But whatever you do, don't let the same people know what the backbenchers think about the way the frontbenchers and their henchmen dish out information. Confused? They are.

Navel watching among the bishops

THE POOR old Church of England. Whatever it does, from women priests to gay vicars, it never gets it quite right. Maybe one shouldn't ask it to. The virtues of Anglicanism are those of its defects. It is a broad church that has always accepted a multiplicity of views from personal protestantism to anglo-catholicism. The media may have found its indecision scandalous but, as the Established Church of England, it has enabled a wide variety of people to worship comfortably within its walls.

The danger of the bishops' vote on gays is precisely that it comes down on one side rather than the other. And the side of intolerance at that. No doubt the Archbishop of Canterbury was under considerable pressure from the overseas members to take a hard line on homosexuality. No doubt he felt the popular pull to show leadership. Just because the Church of England gets most of the attention doesn't mean that it is the only church suffering internecine quarrels over sex, gender and authority. Every religion, from the Jewish to the Muslim, is facing extreme tensions between fundamentalists who insist that its beliefs are revealed and inviolate and the modernists who argue that belief is subject to interpretation.

The sadness of Wednesday's vote is not that it should have been taken, although one might have wondered whether it was really necessary for the meeting to spend quite so much time and energy on this particular issue. If the majority of Anglican bishops are on the side of a fundamentalist (and, it should be said, far from persuasive) interpretation of the Bible, then let them show their colours.

The real damage, however, is to the Church of England. In the end the Archbishop of Canterbury chose to go with the majority because it was they who were threatening to pull the house down if they didn't get their way. It makes institutional sense for a church that is retreating to concentrate on its own surviving members, but none at all to a church that once saw its duty as being open to all.

After the flood

THE DISAPPEARANCE of vast tracts of Britain underwater by the year 2020 will mean so-long Swansea, bye-bye Bristol and adios Aberdeen. But it will also be farewell Fleet Street and pip! pip! party conferences by the sea. Never mind. Into every apocalypse a little rain must fall.

Blair must stop Campbell and company spinning out of control

IT HAS become as regular as Christmas Day. The first week in August is "Spin Doctors Week". Two years ago in an interview with me, published as Tony Blair was relaxing in Tuscany, Clare Short attacked the "people in the dark". Last August, Peter Mandelson became the news story for several weeks after allegedly spinning Robin Cook's failed marriage off the front pages. Now it is the turn of Alastair Campbell. For August at least the spin doctors should hire a spin doctor.

But there is more to this than a brief flurry of excitement in a quiet news period. The story has endured for too long to be without some substance. One August is fine, two is careless, but three? And it is not only in August that the spinners have dominated the news agenda. Since the Government came to power, from the cock-up over the single currency announcement last November to Blair's relationship with Murdoch, the sound and fury has been about the spin as much as the substance.

The sense that the Government cares more about manipulating the media than policies is growing and is damaging. There are reasons for this, but they are not the ones given by the opposition MPs on the privileges committee who have fanned into life once again several myths.

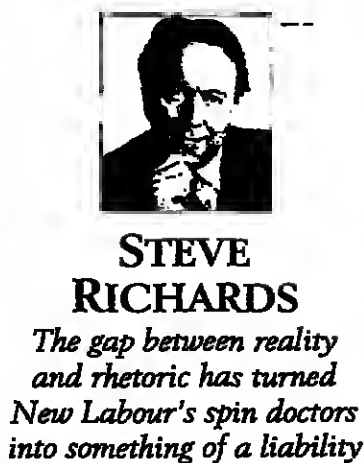
There is nothing inherently sinister in ministers appointing people to represent them in the media and for the public to pay their salaries. If senior politicians did not have spin doctors they would be spending all their time answering queries from journalists. As more and more political journalists fill more and more media outlets, spin doctors have become a logistical necessity. Further-

more if Campbell, or Charlie Whelan, Gordon Brown's spin doctor, ever expressed their own views rather than those of whom they represent, they would be sacked. There is an unbalanced chord linking spin doctors with elected politicians. They do not function in some anarchic vacuum.

As for the departmental press officers, the noble species that opposition MPs on the privileges committee are so keen to protect, most are not very good and can be much ruder than Campbell at his worst. When some of them are phoned for basic information a journalist can be greeted with a baffled silence as if he or she had just ordered a take-away. Alternatively some of these civil servants can be too clever by half, assuming that they are protecting their vulnerable minister and keeping back information which is clearly in the public interest and of no threat to the government.

Every government tries to present its policies in the best possible light and civil servants navigate uneasily between the traditionally blurred divide between working for a minister and being neutral civil servants. They did so under the Conservatives when I was persistently told by press officers at the Department of the Environment, for example, that the poll tax was going according to plan. This government rightly seeks competence in a proliferating media environment and has been quite open about it.

So the spin doctor has been demonised and the departmental press office has been nobbled. That is the mythology. Nonetheless there is a growing problem for the Government over "spin" that Tony Blair and Chief of Staff Cummings need to address. There has been a change in mood in the media, and quite possibly the country, which Blair and the New Labour entourage have not fully grasped. They retain a view on the politics of control that was shaped by their own early political experiences rather than in the context they now find themselves.



STEVE RICHARDS

The gap between reality and rhetoric has turned New Labour's spin doctors into something of a liability

ment over "spin" that Tony Blair and Chief of Staff Cummings need to address. There has been a change in mood in the media, and quite possibly the country, which Blair and the New Labour entourage have not fully grasped. They retain a view on the politics of control that was shaped by their own early political experiences rather than in the context they now find themselves. In trying to understand Blair, and indeed Gordon Brown, it should never be forgotten they were elected to Parliament in the Tory landslide of 1993. Their years as political apprentices followed Jim Callaghan's defeat of 1979, when Labour embarked on a public civil war. Most weeks there were live television discussions involving rival shadow cabinet members and endless internal rows on all the current affairs programmes. Then, in their early years in the Com-

mons, they witnessed Neil Kinnock's long and often bloody battle to reform the party. Every outbreak of dissent further eroded Blair's standing in the polls. Elections were lost. If only, was the general cry, Labour could be as disciplined as the Tories.

Now they are, and, so's law, the climate is different. Ironically, Labour's own success at the election, which the pre-election discipline helped to bring about, is partly responsible. Labour's election, according to Blair himself was to herald "a new politics". Labour was to be pluralist, less tribalist. And yet here at its centre are a group of spinners who act with ruthless speed to punish those who are no longer on message.

I do not want to exaggerate. If the spin doctors stood back and there was an outbreak of internal dissent, the media would leap on the dissenters like starved vultures and cause as much trouble as possible. No newspaper would open its report: "In a welcome change of mood, senior ministers are having a constructive debate on the level of public spending." At first there would be headlines about "Labour's descent into chaos". But there must be, to coin a phrase, a third way, a route that allows former ministers to speak their minds without being rubbed and for Labour MPs to mouth more than the latest vacuous soundbite.

As for Campbell himself, he could do much to end the obsession in himself by televising his lobby briefings. After the novelty had worn off viewing figures would hardly register. Most of the time all he has to offer is information that "the Prime Minister is having tea with the Foreign Secre-

tary of Japan". Unfortunately the egos of the elected ministers will not permit such exposure, although Campbell would actually become less talked about as a result.

There is a more fundamental reason why the spin doctors have become something of a liability, which no member of the privileges committee considered. Over the past year there has been far too big a gap between "spin" and substance. Virtually every government initiative is announced with a degree of hyperbole that can only create a sense of resentment when the reality sinks in. This government moves incrementally, sometimes for good reason. But each slow move forward is presented as a near revolutionary step. According to the spin we have already had the most radical overhaul of the welfare state in 30 years; Britain now leads again in Europe; and the Government's announcement that it may one day, although who knows when, join the single currency was "historic". This gap between the rhetoric and the reality is the most dangerous element in the spinning game, whether carried out by special advisers or the civil servants. Over the next year, the rhetoric should be much more restrained - or, more fruitfully, the policies should match it.

In the same way that John Major - a decent politician - became tainted with sleaze, Tony Blair and his entourage are in danger of appearing arrogant with power. This is not the case. If anything Blair uses power too cautiously. But as Major would tell him, once perceptions have formed, they stick. Blair needs to move fast to ensure this one does not.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Mr Campbell is not a politically neutral press officer but a hatchet man for the Labour Party."
Andrew Tyrie MP

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Jede Form von Süchtigkeit ist von übel, gleichgültig, ob es sich um Alkohol oder Morphinum oder Idealismus handelt."
(Every form of addiction is bad, no matter whether the narcotic be alcohol or morphine or idealism.)
Carl Gustav Jung, Swiss psychologist

WHO'S FAST WHEN IT COMES TO RAPID RESPONSE?

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THE UN and Iraq have reached another impasse over inspections for weapons of mass destruction. Cooperation between the two sides has dwindled, bringing the UN operation to a grinding halt. It is a deplorable situation for the world and especially the Iraqi people: in the absence of cooperation, the United States may again feel compelled to attack Iraq for non-compliance. Clearly, Saddam must allow the UN workers to finish their job. The UN must also remember that the

prolonged sanctions hurt the Iraqi people more than anyone else. Both sides must overcome this impasse before its consequences overcome them.
Gulf Times, UAE

APART FROM Iraq and the wider Arab world, more and more countries feel that punishing the Iraqi people for more than seven years, essentially for American strategic objectives, is both cruel and unjustified. The Iraqi authorities are aware that the world public's

sympathy is even more emphatically with them - there is merit in making the world aware yet again that the inspection regime never ends and Iraqis are dying of

malnutrition and lack of medicines in the meantime.
Khaleej Times, Dubai

THE CHALLENGE the Iraqi leader is making to the UN and

to the peace and security of his region has become familiar during the eight years since the Gulf War. It deserves an uncompromising response: Iraq must respect its obligation to make good on its disclosure and dismantlement pledges to the United Nations. As for Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, the prestige of his office is at stake - not to mention that of his American sponsors.
Washington Post

THE AMERICAN and British

position may be bolstered in the short term, if Iraq provokes a new crisis at a time when its supporters on the Security Council think they might be close to relaxing sanctions. But some say experts say that Iraq may be gambling that another confrontation will leave Washington even more isolated in the long run, as calls increase in the Middle East for an end to the crippling sanctions that have failed to bring down Mr Saddam.
Herald Tribune

PANDORA

LONDONERS, PLEASE be assured that Ken Livingstone's campaign to be London's mayor has not - repeat not - started. Ken's manifesto and the numerous appearances he's recently made at London events are designed to win the backing of the Labour Party, rather than the support of Londoners. So assisting volunteers at a recent Community Service Volunteers event (where he was hailed as a "London mayor hopeful"), opening a new Waterstone's last week (hailed as "London's favourite MP") and spending yesterday at London Zoo publicising a conservation centre must not be misconstrued as populist electioneering well before next year's election. "This is my campaign to be the Labour candidate for mayor, not the campaign for mayor itself," Ken says. Pandora wonders how many party members prospective candidates can reach by embarking on trips to the zoo. Then again, maybe it's the ideal location.

JAMES MAJOR, son of the former prime minister, attended the premiere of *Armageddon* at the Odeon, Leicester Square on Wednesday. When asked about his father, James, who was accompanied by his fiancée Emma, said: "He's still an MP, and he is writing a book." Though grateful for the valuable information that father John was still in the Commons, Pandora was more concerned with the book, which is being hyped as a rollicking good read. "I am sure that it's going to be very interesting," smirked James uncomfortably. Pandora hopes that this reaction means that the rumours about the book are true, but notes that James might not normally put the activities of his father and the word "rollicking" in the same sentence.

PRESIDENT CLINTON faced yet another potential disaster when Hollywood stars Kim Basinger (right) and Alec Baldwin threatened to cancel a Democrat fundraising dinner that they were due to host last weekend. Basinger and Baldwin are keen animal rights activists, so the inclusion of *foie gras* on the menu was like a red rag to a bull. Baldwin called a Democrat official to remind him of the treatment that a goose must undergo to obtain this delicacy. "Can you imagine... can you imagine what it feels like to have a metal pipe shoved down your throat?" he challenged. The goose liver was to have come from the trendy Nick & Toni's restaurant in the East Hampton area of New York. Bonnie Munshin, the manager, confirmed to the *New York Post* that: "Foie

gras was on the original menu. It was something we looked at and it was decided it was something we didn't want to do." So what's good for the goose is good for the gander.

JOHNIE COCHRAN Jr., who made his name as OJ Simpson's defence lawyer, has lost his magic touch. Defending a family friend in West Hartford, Connecticut, Cochran couldn't even get an acquittal for a pair of dogs, after a complaint about late-night barking. Cochran's friend, Flora Allen, had wanted her two Rottweilers to be allowed out at night despite complaints from neighbours about nocturnal noisiness, but a judge denied this request. Cochran, whose client came from the only black family in the area, decided not to play the race card too heavily this time, although he alluded to it with the killer line: "Mrs Allen and her family are the only people in West Hartford who have to put their dogs in at night." Lucky for OJ that Cochran came up with better lines at his trial.

IF LISTENERS to Chris Evans's Virgin Radio breakfast show have detected a sudden absence of humour this week, they should blame the BBC. Insiders have long suspected Evans of "being inspired" by the Radio 1 DJ Chris Moyles, whose show is normally just before Evans starts his on Virgin. This week Moyles has been competing with Evans head on - depriving him of inspiration. Still, anyone prepared to stick out another week with Evans will be pleased to know that Moyles returns to his normal slot in two weeks.



If a body kiss a body, need a body cry?



PHILIP HENSHER

The spectacle of Joyce Maynard trilling away about her ancient affair is a highly distasteful one

AN AMERICAN writer, Joyce Maynard, has drawn a great deal of attention to herself by publishing details of an affair she had 25 years ago. Nobody is claiming that her memoir is remarkable for being especially well written or perceptive; rather, all its interest lies in the revelation of private matters.

The man had various oddities of behaviour, as many people do, which will be described in full in the forthcoming serialisation, and the newspapers have rushed to cover the story. All in all, Joyce Maynard looks set to make more of a splash with her 25-year-old affair with the novelist JD Salinger than with anything else she has done in her life.

With the ex-novelist, rather, because Salinger has taken the decision to withdraw from public life and lead the private life of an ordinary citizen. After the colossal success of his youth, some brilliant short stories and novels, and *The Catcher in the Rye* (which was and remains one of the best selling and most beloved books in the world), Salinger grew heavily to dislike the attentions of media and fans, and went to live in the country with a big

white fence and a shotgun. After a while longer, he stopped even publishing; he has not published anything since 1964, when his last story, *Hapworth 16, 1924*, appeared in *The New Yorker*. We guess, but do not know, that he has continued to write. He has announced plans to publish this last story in volume form, but no plans to publish any new work. And that is his right.

An odd life, certainly; one that is bound to raise the reader's curiosity. And Salinger's readers - those creepy fans, swapping gossip on the Internet - behave as if they, as well as Salinger, had some kind of rights in the matter: a right to know about someone's life, to know where he lives, to know where he goes and whom he sleeps with, a right to go through his rubbish and describe what they find. He wrote novels, many years ago, that encourage you to think that the author, so sane and conversational in his manner, is your friend. He had already put his personal life, it appeared, on show; and a bit more intrusion, surely, would not make any difference.

But the reader doesn't have any rights at all. There are some people whose private lives, certainly, may legitimately be inquired into: politicians and judges, holders of public offices, and - we can argue about journalists and teachers - a very few others. There is such a thing as the freedom of the biographer, which is entirely legitimate after his subject's death. The rest is little-tattle, profoundly distressing to anyone subjected to the in-

trusion, and without any justification whatsoever.

Any remotely successful writer has to handle the attentions of the media; most of us make an unholy pact with it, passing on bits of harmless information about our private lives in exchange for a newspaper feature that may bring a new book to the attention of the public. It is fairly harmless, if the writer is absolutely certain of the moment he will say, "That's none of your business." We all draw that line, and nobody has the right to overstep it. Salinger has chosen to keep his private life very private indeed; and that would have been his prerogative even if he had continued to publish after 1964.

Personally, I think Salinger has damaged his aim by being too self-protective; he does not distinguish between a considerate, fair and unintrusive biography such as Ian Hamilton's *In Search of JD Salinger*, and a muckraking piece of hackery. But it's his life, to handle as he wishes, and he should be forgiven for wondering, wearily, whether the ongoing frenzied speculation about him is a substitute for

the altogether more demanding task of coming to terms with the seductive, intricate, elusive books he has published before 1964.

The spectacle of Joyce Maynard trilling away about her ancient affair is a highly distasteful one. Just look at the photographs of the pair of them: she is grinning for the publicity shot; he, with a look of animal terror, is warding off the camera with his forearm. It is hard to read her smug peroration - "When I stood on his doorstep the other day, I was a strong and brave 44-year-old woman and I knew he had been wrong" - and agree that this is the act of a strong, brave person.

I know we all want to know everything about people we admire; we want to know what Stanley Kubrick has for breakfast and what Thomas Pynchon's beard looks like and what JD Salinger's telephone number is. And, thanks to Maynard and her kind, we will soon be able to find out. But we have one last defence. We can decline to read, or to buy, this disgusting stuff. Because if we do support it, I promise, you will be next; pretty soon, not being famous will be no protection.

Making a mystery out of a mere bunch of moles



PHILLIP KNIGHTLEY

The Act must be enforced to the letter since to admit one exception would collapse the building

MAX SCHULTZ, a German living on a houseboat near Exeter, appeared in court yesterday charged under the Official Secrets Act with having tried to obtain information about the readiness of the British fleet for war. Counsel for the Crown said that a search of Schultz's houseboat had discovered documents revealing the movements of various warships, leave arrangements and dockyard work.

In his defence, Schultz said that he made no secret of his allegiance - he flew the German flag on his houseboat - and all the information found on his houseboat, far from being secret, had come from local newspapers. The jury took just four minutes to find Schultz guilty. The only emotion he showed before being taken down by prison officers was one of absolute amazement.

The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, said later that this was another triumph for the security service MI5, while a Government spokeswoman said that the case showed the value of a comprehensive Official Secrets Act and the need to exempt the intelligence and security services from the provisions of any Freedom of Information Act.

Oh, all right. Schultz's case did not take place yesterday. It was back in 1911, was reported in *The Times* of 4 November that year, and Jack Straw was not around then. But it is a reasonable assumption - on the Government's present performance in the David Shayler and Richard Tomlinson spy cases - that the official attitude has not changed.

For like other Home Secretaries Jack Straw finds himself trapped by the culture of our security and intelligence services: one of secrecy, paranoia, chauvinism, subterfuge, hypocrisy, elitism and a patriotic disdain for democratic processes. The British government set up an

intelligence service in 1909 to counter a German spy menace that existed only in the imagination of the novelist William Tynan Le Queux, the Ian Fleming of his day. But they were terribly embarrassed about doing so - spying was a dirty business more suited to foreigners than to Britons.

Since circumstances compelled Britain to tackle the foreigner on equal terms, our leaders argued, then at least let us do it in such a manner that if our spies are detected, we can swear that we have absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with them.

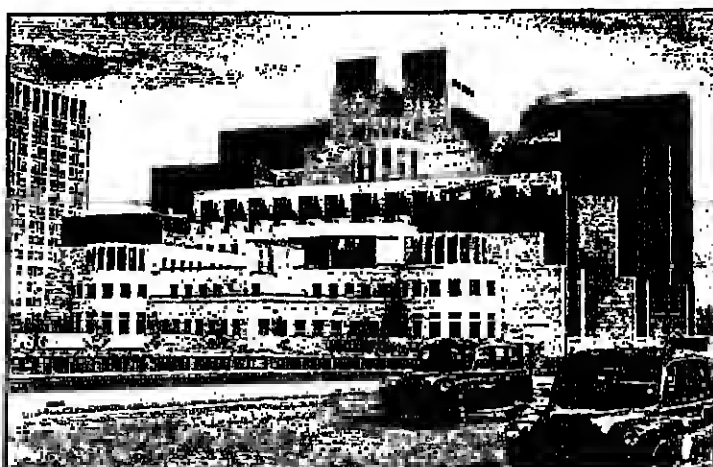
So we ended up with a secret, non-existent, non-accountable intelligence service staffed by non-existent spies - who since they were non-existent, paid no income tax - and a secret, non-existent, non-accountable security service to keep our own spies in line. Now all we needed was to keep the whole crazy mess from the punters. Answer: a new Official Secrets Act. We already had one, passed in

1889, to stop the disclosure of sensitive information by government officials. There had been an attempt to amend it in 1908 to prevent publication in the press of sensitive naval and military information, but the outcry from newspapers was so loud that the government abandoned the idea.

The new proposals were so draconian - they included the "moral certainty" that someone could be a spy even if there was no evidence - that the government decided to hush the Bill through the Commons so quickly that no MP would notice what it really was. It was introduced late on a Friday afternoon when most MPs had already headed off for the weekend. Of the 117 MPs present, only two Liberals showed the slightest misgivings about it, and they were convinced by the government's soothing words that the new law was not aimed at anyone in particular and that it would infringe no one's civil liberties.

This, of course, has turned out to be nonsense. Although amended several times since, the current Official Secrets Act is so harsh that, when two upright British citizens sprang the KGB spy George Blake from Wormwood Scrubs because they considered his 42-year sentence under the Act to be unjust, the jury refused to convict them.

Like all ludicrous prohibitions it has to be enforced to the letter, because to admit even to one exception would be to remove the keystone and the building would collapse. So while the Official Secrets Act remains in force, the government of the day will pursue the Peter Wrights, the Richard Tomlinsons and the David Shayers to the ends of the earth, and it will also inject, restrain, cajole and threaten newspapers, television stations and publishing houses that try to tell the



The MI6 building on the Thames, whose windows look out only

British public what is being done to its name.

And it will do this not because it wants to hush because it is in thrall to the secret services. But why should Labour, which promised open government when it came to power and which has at least two ministers who were spied upon by MI5 when they were younger, know to MI5 and MI6, who owe Labour no real loyalty?

Consider this. Winston Churchill, John F. Kennedy, and Margaret Thatcher - hard-headed politicians every one of them - all fell under the spies' spell. Kennedy had hardly taken office when the director of the CIA came to him and gave him a file full of details of what had really been going on in the world in the previous 24 hours, including intimate details of the intimate personal life of most of the world leaders. Kennedy was hooked.

Among the first people to call on a newly elected British prime minister are the director-generals of MI5 and MI6. They give him a briefing on the threats, trouble spots and likely

difficulties the new government might face. Does the MI5 briefing include a secret file or two on some of the PM's colleagues? How else to explain the ease with which the secret services appear to have won over Tony Blair's government?

This mess cannot be cured by tinkering with the fringes, opening the curtains an inch or two, trying a little public relations. We have to sweep away the whole cult of secrecy that began in 1909. We should look at what sort of security and intelligence services we need in the 21st century, set them up under full parliamentary control, abolish the Official Secrets Act - other countries manage without one - give any whistle-blower a public interest defence and bring in a freedom of information act as soon as possible.

Then we could cease being the most secretive of all the Western democracies and the laughing stock of the rest of the free world.

The writer is the author of *The Second Oldest Profession*, a history of secret services

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The real causes of Aids are ignored

PERHAPS ALL of us are all too familiar with the degradation of human rights of lesbians and gay men. We have lived through the long nights of the Aids epidemic to witness yet further assaults on our right to love who we choose, our right to be free from persecution, and our right to health.

In 1992, I was a newspaper journalist. I set about learning and writing about Aids in the developing world. I started asking what I thought was a perfectly simple and straightforward question. I wanted to find out what role sex between men played in the pandemic of Aids in the third world.

I was unprepared for the response. My question was met with denial, hostility and dishonesty. Most of the answers I got were variations on the same theme which was "male-to-male sex plays no role in Aids in the developing world," or "there are no homosexuals in our country." I was told by a number of agencies and organisations that my questions were damaging the cause of Aids prevention in the developing world.

I called my report On the

Margins because I concluded that virtually every aspect of the lives of men who have sex with men is marginalised by an Aids and HIV epidemiology which usually ignores male-to-male sexual transmission, which pretends it doesn't exist.

Why are men who have sex with men the forgotten people? I think to understand the reasons for this neglect we must go back to the very beginning of Aids.

The Global Programme on Aids set about constructing Aids in moral, political and development terms. An ideology of HIV and Aids quickly grew up. The challenge of Aids became an opportunity to put into practice a new way of thinking and working around development. In 15 years of often worthy rhetoric about human rights and health rights, about empowerment, about development, barely a word was said about gay men, bisexual men or men who have sex with men in developing countries.

History will judge the success or otherwise of the first years of Aids prevention under the leadership of the Global Programme of Aids, and now



PODIUM

NEIL MCKENNA
From a speech to the
Amnesty International-
HIVOS Lesbian and
Gay Rights Programme,
Amsterdam

under UNAIDS. Where it failed was its reluctance to grasp the nettle of male-to-male transmission of HIV. Its consistent, simplistic public statements that HIV in the developing world was almost invariably the result of heterosexual sex contrasted uneasily with its private knowledge of the significance of male-to-male sex as a means of HIV transmission. But most of all it was a failure to give

leadership. Underneath all the rhetoric of development, behind all the morally correct, politically correct statements lurk some unresolved feelings about men who have sex with men in developing countries. I believe that many people working in the field of Aids prevention and development are unhappy and uncomfortable with the idea. The day-to-day realities of sex between men in many parts of the developing world stretch and test the very limits of liberalism.

Sometimes it's a dark, strange, covert, promiscuous, often unpleasant world. It's about a male sexuality which is unrestrained, lustful, often involving the sexual exploitation of boys, often involving prostitution, coercion and violence. It's a world where most of the protagonists are married and their sexual activities with men can damage the wife and the family, especially when it comes to the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases.

For men in the developing world, there has been a virtual famine of Aids prevention, and a drought of funding. Were this happening to any other group of human beings, there

would be an international outcry. As it is, there are just a few faint voices of protest.

So what is to be done? Well, the situation is not entirely bleak. Some Western governments have funded Aids prevention projects for men who have sex with men in developing countries. Even Britain's Department for International Development has funded one or two projects. But despite written submissions made to DFID about establishing appropriate funding strategies for the health of men who have sex with men, DFID has so far failed to come up with a policy.

We are left with the depressing conclusion that the health and human rights of men who have sex with men in the developing world are not deemed to be a priority by our government. It's a scandalous, shameful state of affairs. I am calling for an international task force to tackle years of neglect of the sexual health needs of men who have sex with men in the developing world.

Until the health and human rights of all men who have sex with men are assured we cannot cease our struggle.

July 11, 1998

Gunning for the Iraqi people



PATRICK COCKBURN
In effect, sanctions laid Iraq under economic siege of a kind not seen before outside warfare

BAGHDAD - It was inevitable that the attempt to implement the ceasefire agreement reached eight years ago between Iraq and the UN at the end of the Gulf war would eventually break down.

Under that agreement, Iraq promised to give up its non-conventional arms and the means to manufacture them. Sanctions would be lifted only when a UN Special Committee (Unsc) certified that Iraq had no more weapons of mass destruction. What followed is very similar to the German reaction to the treaty of Versailles in 1919. Germany was forced to agree partial disarmament - no tanks, airships, heavy artillery, poison gas or general staff - and to pay financial reparations. Iraq likewise agreed to give up its long-range missiles and chemical weapons, as well as its plans to make nuclear and biological weapons.



An Iraqi soldier guards the UN headquarters in Baghdad, as Saddam Hussein refuses all further weapons inspections

AFP/Karim Sahib

The parallel between Iraq and Germany breaks down when it comes to the severity of the punishment inflicted on the two countries. The sanctions imposed on Iraq in 1990 were unprecedented. The UN Security Council had only twice before voted for such an embargo, against Rhodesia and South Africa. In effect, sanctions laid Iraq under economic siege of a kind not seen before outside warfare.

It is this which makes Saddam Hussein's decision to end co-operation with Unscom and demand its restructuring so serious. It is difficult to see how he, or any Iraqi government, can go back to an endlessly prolonged inspection process, which continues regardless of the impact of sanctions.

These have been devastating. The Iraqi economy has suffered far worse damage from the embargo than Germany did from bombing in 1942-45. The reason is simple enough. A modern economy depends on a constant supply of electricity and water. Its health depends on the continuous disposal of sewage. This is what distinguishes the economies of this century from the Middle Ages.

But over eight years Iraq has gradually returned to a pre-industrial age because its plants are not maintained or repaired. The electricity supply is breaking down

and is only 40 per cent of what it was in 1990.

In the main children's hospital in Baghdad this week I saw one ward where 10 new Japanese incubators with computerised controls had just been delivered. Premature babies were lying in them, but the doors of the incubators could not be closed because the air conditioning in the hospital had failed. The manufacturers of the incubators had never imagined that their equipment would be used when the temperature in a hospital was 49°C.

In 1995 the UN Security Council thought it could feed the Iraqi population, but still keep cash out of the hands of the Iraqi government by putting forward its oil-for-food plan. Iraq would sell oil, but the oil revenues would be placed in a French bank and all spending would be under the control of the UN.

It has not worked. Oil-for-food was agreed in 1996. In March this year a survey of Iraqi children under five carried out by Unicef showed that 27 per cent suffer from chronic malnutrition, 9 per cent from acute malnutrition and 24 per cent are underweight. Before sanctions the chief health risk to Iraqi children was obesity, so sanctions

are damaging the health of 60 per cent of Iraqi children.

The only effective way of ending this suffering is to end sanctions. Denis Halliday, the head of the UN humanitarian mission in Iraq, resigned last month in frustration at the failure of the Security Council to recognise that its policy had failed. He points out that food aid is not enough if people have to drink contaminated water because the power station and the water and sewage plants have not been repaired for eight years. The small amounts of money allocated by the UN are dwarfed by the scale of the problem.

It is this economic and social crisis which is the driving force in the present confrontation between Iraq and the UN. It is this which makes it more than a diplomatic skirmish. In essence Iraq will allow monitoring of existing sites and facilities by the UN to continue, but not new inspections. It is difficult to see these being resumed without Baghdad being given concrete assurances about a bid for the end of sanctions.

Mr Butler's surprise at his abrupt dismissal stems from his failure to realise that Unscom can no longer behave as it did in the first half of the 1990s. The original

ceasefire terms with Iraq, embodied in a UN Security Council resolution, were extracted under the threat of invasion.

The last confrontation between the UN and Iraq, stretching over four months from last November, showed that the Gulf war alliance no longer existed. Apart from Kuwait none of the Arab states were prepared to support America and British military action against Iraq.

The US was paying the price of its policy immediately after the Gulf war. Iraq said this week that sanctions were aimed at overthrowing the Iraqi government. But this is not quite true. It was aimed rather at ensuring a "weak Saddam". This is what Tony Lake, the former US National Security Adviser, called "chipping Saddam in his box". If he was overthrown then the US wanted him replaced by somebody very similar. It did not want a revolution which might benefit Iran or lead to an independent Kurdistan.

This policy had the unfortunate effect that Saddam and the Iraqi state were kept weak, by targeting the living standards of the Iraqi people. This was never obvious to the outside world because Saddam

and his government were so demoralised and so demonised. It is also easy to rouse international public opinion against anybody possessing or seeking to possess a terror weapon such as VX nerve gas or anthrax spores.

Yet Iraq had possessed these weapons in far greater quantities in the Gulf war than it does now and had not used them. The reason was no particular reason why Iraq's remaining biological and chemical weapons should not be dealt with by deterrence from the US and Britain allied to the south Gulf states.

The truth is that all states in the region are now acquiring weapons of mass destruction. Of the three states to the east of Iraq, two, India and Pakistan, have nuclear weapons, and one, Iran, has mustard and nerve gases. Of the three states to the west of Iraq only Jordan has no such weapons. Syria has poison gas and the missiles to deliver it. Israel has at least 80 nuclear devices as well as rockets and advanced fighter-bomber aircraft which can reach anywhere in the Middle East.

Any chance of preventing such weapons spreading throughout the region probably disappeared when

the international community allowed Iraq to use mustard and sarin and Tabun nerve gases against the Iranians in the Iran-Iraq war. It was the first time they had been used on a mass scale in conventional war since 1918. Some 50,000 Iranians still suffer from mustard gas poisoning.

Mr Butler himself did not help earlier this year when he said Iraq could devastate Tel Aviv. The Israeli government did not believe it, but it touched off a popular panic. This undermined the effectiveness of the threat of non-conventional weapons to governments in the region thinking of acquiring them.

Mr Butler's failure was not to see that the casualties from Iraq's remaining non-conventional weapons are potential, while the casualties of sanctions are quite real. Infant mortality has quintupled since 1990. No government in Iraq is going to co-operate with inspectors while sanctions continue. To imagine that it might be to institutionalise the present crisis.

The only alternative to a new agreement on sanctions and non-conventional weapons with Iraq is a renewal of the Gulf war which the US and Britain showed in February that they do not want.

RIGHT OF REPLY

DJORDJE MIJALKOVIC

The Counsellor at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia responds to Paddy Ashdown's article on the crisis in Kosovo

I SHOULD like to emphasise that common ground exists between us and Paddy Ashdown MP when he argues that only a political solution to Kosovo and Metohija, not a military one, will work.

Yet both in his "Plan to save Kosovo" and his earlier article ("We must intervene in Kosovo now", 3 July) he demands NATO military action against an independent state defending its territorial integrity against irredentist terrorists.

Moreover, once NATO has the right to intervene to change borders or regimes, this will pave the way for a new era of international lawlessness, in which, as the Bible defines it, each man does what is right in his own eyes.

Mr Ashdown exemplifies the double standards of many Western politicians and media. So long as the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) was making progress, killing policemen and soldiers, no one expressed worries, threatened sanctions against separatist terrorists or cut off financial and other support from abroad.

When the Serb government his back in its own territory, Mr Ashdown and others call for intervention against them under the pretext of protecting civilians.

But let me emphasise that the plight of the displaced people which Western saboteurs adduce as justification for intervention, is in fact the result of the KLA's activities. If they ceased, the refugee problem would cease with them and the way will be open for negotiations which is Belgrade's long-standing position.

The ball is now, as ever, in the ethnic-Albanian court. If the international community would lend weight to our call for negotiations instead of encouraging Balkan equivalents of the IRA and ETA by threatening air-strikes against "Belgrade", i.e. against Serbian people, much bloodshed could be averted.

'Come out of there, Elizabeth!'

I HAVE chucked the odd bread roll around when occasion has demanded, and I am more than happy to read tales of toffs having a good time. While everyone else motors down to Cap Ferrat to stay with Uncle Teddy, I am happy here with my seat by the parrot's cage reading of agreeable lunches in clubs, followed by tea with m'tutor and a spot of tug-of-war. What I do need, though, is a bit of description. Try 360 pages of this "We're having wonderful weather and a wonderful term. Last night we had a special drink in Hall, endowed by some rich American, and we had great fun throwing things at high table. On Wednesday I went to the Derby and saw it from the course." Somehow it fails to fill the bill.



FRIDAY BOOK

LETTERS HOME
BY BRIAN JOHNSTON (EDITED BY BARRY JOHNSTON)
WEIDENFELD & NICOLSON, £20

used live ammunition during a demonstration and mowed down spectators. Johnstons writes: "They don't know whether the pilot was mad, or fifth column. Charles had a bullet through his jaw but is all right. Hope the boys are well and have enjoyed their stay."

He is similarly unmoved by events closer to home. On receipt of letters from his mother informing him of her divorce from Marcus Scully (who had been a good stepfather to Brian), he writes: "I hope things are all right with you now and that you have decided what to do. Marcus hasn't written yet

but I presume he will. I think Harrods would be best for my trunk, so please store it with yours until further notice." That's it - not even a cheery "Bad luck, old thing."

Even the truly bizarre and macabre fails to furore the brow or inspire the pen of the genial Johnstons. In 1934 he visited a freak show in Blackpool which included an extraordinary and grim attraction called "The Starving Brides and Bridegrooms". A couple would lie side by side in a coffin and starve for 30 days. If they survived, they got £250. Over to Brian Johnston: "We came on Sunday via Blackpool, where we saw starving brides and bridegrooms, & went on giant racers etc: wonderful value. Two of our matches have been in *The Times* so far, yesterday and day before, so I needn't give details."

Now the tone that a chap adopts when writing to his mater is entirely that of a chap's business. Breezy indifference, a limited vocabulary and an avoidance of anything of interest may have been just the ticket as far as Mrs Johnston was concerned. Obviously, she was happy enough with the correspondence, to have preserved it so carefully. But why Chips Weidenfeld and Oozie Nicolson have thought it worth putting these dutiful missives between hard covers is a bit of a mystery. Perhaps they are hoping that we might buy a copy instead of a cravat as a present for some Old Bean.

Like Bertie Wooster, Johnstons was clearly a kindly bird. He is always getting his mother to whizz off cheques, postal orders and presents to godchildren and relatives. He stumps up for Christmas dinners for East-Enders, is thoughtful enough to include in his Christmas largesse evacuees staying with his mother, and regularly helps a family hit by bad health and unemployment. He likes to have a good time, and he likes others to have one, too.



Brian Johnston with the famous accoutrements of cake and milk

FRIDAY POEM

DEADNETTLE
BY JEAN SPRACKLAND

Sprawled under the hedge he snaps
the thin necks of deadnettle,
pinches the white sac, squirts
nectar into my mouth.
A small sweet promise on the tongue.

I run home in the heat. The smell
of melting tar, a stickiness underfoot.
The house whirrs and stutters with the machine.
She urges a small red dress to the needle.

She stops, examines me, stretches
to tug a snag of stickybud from my hair.
Be a good girl. She takes up the cloth
and snaps the thread on her teeth. Won't you?

Our poems this week come from volumes competing for this year's Forward Prizes, which will be announced on 7 October. Jean Sprackland's book 'Tattoos for Mothers' Day' (Spike, £4.99) is shortlisted for the Best First Collection award

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Todor Zhivkov

TODOR ZHIVKOV shared the main failing of many holders of absolute power: he did not know when to relinquish it. The man who led the Bulgarian Communist Party (BCP) for 35 years would have been better regarded by posterity had he resigned 10 years before his removal in November 1989.

Zhivkov was born in 1911 of poor peasant parents in the small town of Pravets. By 1928, as an apprentice in the State Printing House, he was already a member of the Communist Party youth movement. After being sacked in 1933 for his disruptive activities, Zhivkov worked as a full-time party functionary in the Sofia district. In 1938 he married Mara Maleeva, a medical student and fellow radical.

During the war Zhivkov operated as a political officer with the Chavdar partisan brigade and in September 1944 was in Sofia when the Fatherland Front coalition deposed the old regime. Whilst the Communists secured their domination within the coalition Zhivkov consolidated his own position within the Sofia party apparatus, making himself known to the new rulers by redistributing amongst them the confiscated wealth of their predecessors.

By December 1948 Zhivkov was first secretary of the Sofia party committee and a full member of the central committee of the BCP. In 1950 he became a candidate member of the Politburo and in June 1951 was elected a full member.

It was Stalin's death which brought Zhivkov to the leadership of the party. In March 1954 Bulgaria's "Little Stalin", Vukko Chervenkov, at last stepped down as first secretary of the central committee. Zhivkov, who had fewest enemies, was elected to succeed him. In April 1956 the new leader presided over the April plenum which denounced Chervenkov and adopted the "April line" which was to remain the bedrock of party policy until 1987.

It had been the Sofia party apparatus which had helped Zhivkov to power, two factors kept him there. The first was his ability to sense

threats almost before they had time to materialise, a skill which enabled him to head off an army coup in 1965 and in the following 24 years to remove a whole series of would-be contenders for power.

His second prop was his good standing in the Kremlin. This was most dramatically illustrated in 1962, when he deserted a central committee plenum to fly to Moscow to secure Khrushchev's backing against his head of government, Anton Yugov. Yugov was deposed and in November 1962 Zhivkov became prime minister, a post he held

Zhivkov became the first of the deposed Communist leaders to face trial. The proceedings were less of an ordeal for him than an embarrassment to the incumbent government

until July 1971 when he stepped into the newly created presidency of the State Council, or head of state.

Close alignment with the Soviet Union continued to be the dominant feature of Zhivkov's foreign policy during the 1970s, so much so that in the first half of the decade there were rumours that he intended to make Bulgaria the 16th republic of the Soviet Union.

In domestic affairs Bulgaria had completed the building of its industrial base and now faced the problems of the transition from extensive to intensive growth, problems which were addressed in the new party pro-

gramme which Zhivkov introduced in 1971.

By the end of the decade some progress had been made and Bulgaria was establishing itself as Comecon's leading producer of computer components and had established export markets for fork-lift trucks and other engineering products. Despite these successes, however, living standards did not rise as rapidly as predicted, with agriculture, housing, and the service sectors proving doggedly unresponsive to official stimuli towards growth.

These problems haunted Zhivkov in the 1980s. By the end of the decade it was clear they had outpaced his capacity to understand them. The much-heralded New Economic Mechanism of February 1982 proved to be little more than a bewildering and damaging series of tinkering with the administration of the economy. Other reforms, such as the democratic Labour Code of 1986, were simply ignored or circumvented when they embarrassed the nomenklatura. In 1985 the advent of Gorbachev meant that the traditionalist Communist Zhivkov had lost his ultimate guarantee of power: support from Moscow.

It was at this time that Zhivkov launched his disastrous attempt to Bulgariaise the country's Turks, forcing them to adopt Slav names and placing grave restrictions on the public use of the Turkish language. There was, however, some recognition of the advancing tide of reform in Eastern Europe. The July plenum of 1987 introduced the "July concept" as a replacement for the "April line", but its promises of reform were not kept and in the following year Zhivkov was clearly backtracking: in the summer he reverted to his old tactics by removing the obvious contender for his succession, Chudomir Alexandrov.

Zhivkov was concocting the brew for his own destruction. Unfulfilled promises of reform, a declining economy, growing public concern over pollution, and the international disgrace of the Turkish policies combined in the autumn of 1989 to precipitate the largest public demonstrations seen



Zhivkov at the centre of a group of Bulgarian Pioneers, 1963

Camera Press

in Bulgaria since the Second World War. A central committee plenum on 10 November readily accepted Zhivkov's resignation.

Within days he was in a military hospital awaiting the trial which investigation into his past activities was bound to produce. By then there was inevitable questioning of his record, both in power and before achieving it, with accusations even that he had served as a police informer before 1944.

Zhivkov in fact became the first of the deposed Communist leaders to face trial. The initial charges were minor ones of corruption but

eventually his role in the attempted assimilation of the Turks was included in the indictment, as was his attempt to incorporate Bulgaria into the Soviet Union. The trial proceedings, which formed the basis for Julian Barnes's novel *The Porcupine* (1992), were less an ordeal for Zhivkov than an embarrassment to the incumbent government.

The old leader showed that he had lost few if any of his old peasant wiles and he used the dock to contrast the apparent stability of his own years in power with the inflation, unemployment and uncertainty which

gripped Bulgarians in 1991-92. In September 1992 he was sentenced to seven years, but his health and political sensitivities dictated that they be served under house arrest rather than in jail.

In his private life Zhivkov had been the victim of misfortune and misjudgment. His wife died in 1971 and a decade later, a few days before her 39th birthday, death took his daughter, Liudmila. As a minister of culture prepared to assert Bulgaria's cultural identity, she had earned the respect of Bulgaria's intelligentsia. Less fortunate was Zhivkov's decision in the summer of

1989 to propel his son Vladimir along the same path. The latter had nothing of his sister's ability and his advancement was to many Bulgarians the final straw in their alienation from their leader.

Richard Crampton

Todor Hristo Zhivkov, politician, born Pravets, Bulgaria 7 September 1911; Prime Minister of Bulgaria 1962-71, President of State Council (Head of State) 1971-89; married 1938 Mara Maleeva (died 1971); one son, and one daughter deceased; died Sofia 5 August 1998.

Charles Maxwell



Maxwell between Frank Muir (left) and Denis Norden (right), whom he produced in *Take It From Here*

THE EARLIEST radio producers were anonymous, but by the mid-Thirties "Monday Night at Seven" was on the air. So sang Judy Shirley the "Singing Comère" every week as she introduced the items in this hour-long programme. And always she sang the closing credits: "Produced by Harry Pepper and Douglas Moodie too, we hope the programme hasn't caused a frown". And you young fans sang along as we always did with any song we heard more than once, so that by the time 43 Mondays had come and gone we knew at least one important fact about pre-war radio: programmes were produced by producers.

Today the Radio Times does its best to hide that fact, making sure that not only producers but scriptwriters, devisers, and as many creative behind-the-microphone talents as possible are eliminated from their microscopic listings. Fortunately for historians and nostalgists back numbers of *Radio Times*, particularly the pre-war and post-war editions, are jam-packed with information on those behind-the-voices professionals who gave us so many hours of mirth and melody.

Charles Maxwell, one of the greatest of these professionals, has left behind him a vast sound archive of some of the funniest programmes ever broadcast: he was producer of *Take It From Here*, the series where the Kemmies introduced "Half an hour of laughter hecks" - every minute packed with seconds!

Charles Chalmers Maxwell was a Scotsman, born in 1910. Educated at Edinburgh Academy, he went on to study law at the university, following in his father's footsteps. He qualified as a solicitor, but the stage bug bit him and he abandoned the seriousness of life in the law courts for a career as an actor in London. Answering an advertisement he joined the continental commercial station Radio Luxembourg as a staff announcer and introduced gramophone records, as disc jockeys or deejays were known in those long lost days of 1936.

British commercial radio, the brainchild of one Captain Leonard Plugge, had begun in a small way on Sunday 11 October 1931 with dance records by the Ibcolians, the official band of IBC, the International Broadcasting Company. This came from Radio Normandy, whose first sponsored programme came a month later with the *Philco Shmober Hour*, more dance records, introduced by Major Max Stanforth. By 1936 the rival Radio Luxembourg had not only out-programmed Normandy but also Sir John Reith's BBC.

That deeply religious dictator of British broadcasting devoted every wireless Sunday to church services alternating with classical concerts. Luxembourg fired back with *The Oudlinage Concert Party*, *The Rinsio Radio Revue* and *The Palmolive Programme* starring Olive Palmer, Paul Oliver and the Palmolivers, to name but a few. You can guess who won the battle of Britain's Sundays.

After 18 months as station announcer, Maxwell went over to the rival outfit, Normandy, where he met and struck up a lifetime friendship with their top announcer, Roy Plomley. In the years before Plomley took it rich with his *Desert Island Discs*, he was already a big name in commercial broadcasting, eventually touring England as compere of the promotional stage show *Radio Normandy Calling*. Maxwell returned to England during 1938 where he did his first producing work for IBC.

The Second World War saw him serving a short spell in the RAF and with the enforced closure of the continental stations early in 1940 (one would become the home of Lord Haw-Haw), he joined the BBC as a variety producer for their new *General Forces Programme*. His greatest wartime success was *Navvy Mixture*, which started on 4 February 1943 and ran well beyond the war to 23 November 1947.

"Blended to suit the taste of the Royal Navy", this series was compered by Petty Officer Jack Watson, who before the war was better known as "Hubert", straight man to

his comedian father, Nomo King, the black-face monologist. The original cast included telegraphist Ivor Fye, who sang sailor songs alongside such vocalists as Judy Shirley and Sam Browne. But the most significant moment of the show was called "Archie Takes the Helm", which featured comical cross-talk between the ventriloquist Peter Brough and his dummy Archie Andrews.

Other seeds for future blossoming included a bright and breezy singing star from Australia, Joy Nichols, and "Professor" Jimmy Edwards, fresh from the Windmill Theatre, in a light-hearted musical lecture entitled "You May Take Notes". The professor accompanied himself on the euphonium, and brought with him a long, lean and lanky scriptwriter called Frank Muir.

Another Australian singer-cum-comic was also around looking for work. This was Dick Bentley. Clearly the time was right for all this talent to be combined: all Maxwell had to do was to take it from here.

Sensing the writing talent hurgoning from Frank Muir, Maxwell stood him a hefty lunch in the hope of persuading him to write a new half-hour show to star Joy, Dick and Jimmy, as they were soon to become nationally known. Muir thought it much too much for one mere man, and suggested working in partnership with Denis Norden, another long, lean and lanky newcomer to the script market. Soon the new show was set, the only odd thing about it being the title. *Take It From Here* had started in 1943 and had folded after two runs, the first with the wonder-

ful Richard Haydn as the fish impersonator Professor Edwiz Carpy, the second with the equally wonderful Arthur Marshall as Nurse Dugdale ("Out of my way dears, instantly!")

Following the Tommy Handley vehicle *It's That Man Again*, initially known as *Itma*, *Take It From Here* was soon shortened to *Tif*, pronounced "Tife", David "Dunners" Dunhill, a BBC staff announcer with no sense of humour, announced, and from 4 March 1948 the series took off. It was packed with catch-phrases, the mark of any good radio show in those days, usually bawled by the ebullient Jimmy Edwards: "Wake up at the back there!", "A mauve one!", "Clumsy dot!", "Black mark, Bentley!", to name but a few. Clarence Wright, ex-*Itma*, played Henpecked Harry Hickory ("Shh!

Thought it was ber for a minute!"), with other odd voices played by the mysteriously non-existent Herbert Mostyn. This in fact was both Muir and Norden using their middle names as a disguise.

Everybody on the show had characters to create and continue. Joy Nichols, apart from her weekly song, was Miss Arundel, who had a naughty boyfriend Gilbert, and whose answer to most questions was a breathy giggle. "Master" Dick Bentley the ageing juvenile, was the adonoid lover who sighed, "Oh Mavis, how ravishing you look in your 'nee-glige' with its tantalising glimpses of vest!" Small wonder the new show won both the 1949 and 1951 National Radio Awards.

Wallas Eaton, remembered for his weekly plea, "Come 'ome, Jim Edwards, come back to the buildings", arrived in the second series and stayed on to the end in 1959. Joy Nichols left in 1952 to have a baby, and Sally Rogers from *Cheerful Charlie Chester's Gang*, took over. Joy finally left for good, and her exceptional talent called for not one but two replacements. Maxwell finally selected the bubbly Alma Cogan to sing the songs, and talented June Whitfield for the funny voices.

The most famous sketch series within the show began with the new look for new *listen* programme broadcast on 12 November 1952. This was "The Gurns". Originally introduced as a Typical British Family to comment upon the week's *Tif* Talking Point, the extraordinary trio soon came to dominate the programme. Pa Glum (Edwards) constantly interrupted the eager love-making of son Ron ("Come on, Eth, just a kiss") and his wailing fiancée Eth ("Ohhh Ron...") with his unwelcome "Allo! Allo! Allo!"

After 12 series Muir and Norden departed for television, and the unlucky 13th turned out to be the last. This 1959 run was written by the newish partnership of Eric Merriam and Barry Took, who did better later with *Beyond Our Ken*.

Between series of *Tif*, Maxwell

also produced one of the most popular non-audience comedy shows ever, the quietly amusing *Just Fancy* (1951). An experiment by Eric Barker, who had had enough of his wartime radio series *Waterlogged Spa*, wanted to concentrate on the comedy of character rather than verbal jokes.

Just Fancy, impeccably produced, was perfect, particularly with its closing sequence set in the Cranbourne Towers Hotel where two retired old friends, Barker and Deryck Guyler, waffled away to each other that it was only by listening to the other fellow's point of view, Kenneth Connor played the waiter Muspratt, and Pearl Hackney (Mrs Barker) was Lillian Forsdyke of the out-of-tune Trio. The series ran for over a hundred half-hours.

In 1966 Maxwell was appointed Chief Producer of Radio Four Light Entertainment, overseeing some 40 comedies a week. It was he who brought those bright new talents from the Cambridge Footlights to the air in the long-running *I'm Sorry I'm Right* (1964-73): John Cleese, Tim Brooke-Taylor, Bill Oddie, Graeme Garden and David Hatch, who in time would himself become Managing Director BBC Radio.

In 1962 a paperback was published about *Take It From Here*. The anonymous author wrote of Maxwell: "A man who combines in one person the qualities of father, wicked uncle, martinet and fairy godmother. He must be essential to be ruthless. When things come to a sticky pause he must have ideas. When nothing goes wrong, his greatest triumph, he stands happily in the background, knowing that his work has been well done."

Which perfectly sums up every great radio producer, hopefully not a dying breed.

Denis Gifford

Charles Chalmers Maxwell, radio producer, born 1 September 1910; Chief Producer, BBC Radio 4 Light Entertainment 1966-70; twice married (one son, two daughters); died 4 August 1998.

Sir David Huddie

MAJ I expand the statement in Andrew Nahun's obituary (16 June) that Sir David Huddie left Rolls-Royce for Imperial College? writes Alan Swanson.

Huddie was invited to join the Mechanical Engineering Department at Imperial by its then Head, Professor Sir Hugh Ford, who was developing his ideas about engineering

education and in particular was seeking a better integration of university education and industrial training, to produce graduates who would be as sound in engineering science as their predecessors but better able to apply it in the real world.

A central part of these ideas was that students should be sponsored by industrial firms and learn there

about the realities of industry (which was not new) and that the firms should guarantee to provide certain features in their training to make it part of an integrated five-year programme and should send representatives to join Imperial College staff in overseeing both the industrial and academic phases of the course; this was new. The resulting

"Total Technology" course, in the 1-3-1 form (three years in university sandwiched between two years in industry), started to do in the mid-1970s that which was later advocated for general application in the report of the Finniston Committee.

Huddie's part was to enlist industrial support. He did this so successfully that most major employers

of engineering graduates were partners in the Total Technology course. The first students started the Imperial College part of their course in 1975; in 1977 Sir Fred Dainton, the Chairman of the then University Grants Committee, invited universities to offer proposals for a small number of engineering undergraduate courses which should include

the traditional engineering science but also include features to equip their graduates for future leadership in industry, and would need longer than the then usual three years. The thinking was very similar to Ford's, though the longer duration probably had to come from the funding body. For David Huddie, this was a new challenge, having enlisted solid sup-

port for a 1-3-1 arrangement, he now had to do the same for 1-4-x ("x" because the length of the post-graduation part was vague), necessarily from largely the same constituency. He rose to the challenge as expected, and soon Imperial College had an array of sponsors for both three- and four-year courses that was envied by others.

July 11, 1950

Monica Dance



MONICA DANCE was Secretary of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings for 30 years during the critical post-war period which saw the growth of effective public interest in protecting the built environment. Not only did she serve her own members in the spirit of the Manifesto of its founder, William Morris, but she acted as midwife to many other organisations concerned with the preservation of buildings and the conservation of our towns and cities.

Now that the preservation of the historic environment has become so fashionable that not only the Royal Family but television producers take an interest in our past, it is difficult to realise what an uphill struggle it could be even in the 1960s. William Morris had founded the SPAB in that brief late Victorian period which saw the Ancient Monuments Act of 1882 and the foundation of the National Trust in 1895, but neither Edwardian affluence nor the post-First World War depression made it easy to carry on his work.

Under Dance, membership rose from 300 to 6,000, stimulated by programmes of lectures and visits to country houses, and the Technical Panel was set up to advise owners. Many of the initiatives which have spawned organisations of their own began under the aegis of the SPAB. Thus the society's Report published in 1947 (when Dance had been Acting Secretary for five years), lists a whole series of concerns which we now take for granted: it could report that it had advised various councils in England as to how to restore their towns and cities appropriately, that it was in correspondence with historic and conservation societies as far afield as Brazil and South Africa, and had advised the Soviet Academy of Architecture in 1944 on the repair of damaged buildings. It could welcome the Town and Country Planning Act of 1944, and the innumerable listed buildings acts on which it had been asked to advise.

The list of threatened buildings cases was unusual in that many had been damaged by enemy action, rather than merely neglected or vandalised by indigenous owners, but the society's awareness of the real dangers was shown by its concern over threatened buildings in towns, where it identified the rent acts, slum clearance and traffic as the greatest threats.

Dance was born Winifred Monica Sopitt in Barnsley in 1913, and went to work in 1931 as secretary to the architect John Macgregor and A.R. Powys. The latter was Secretary to the society, and, on his death in 1936, she became increasingly involved in its administration. During the Second World War, she became Acting Secretary, both to the Society and to its offshoot, the Georgian Group. She became Secretary in 1949, the first non-architect and the first woman to hold the post.

The Second World War gave her, as it did many women, the opportunity to make her mark, and she was fortunate too, in her husband, Harry Dance, whom she married in 1942, who supported her in her work. They lived "over the shop" at 55 Great Ormond Street until she retired in 1978.

Monica Dance was a persistent and dogged campaigner - she wrote more than 280 letters over 20 years to save one important timber-framed building in Hertfordshire, and she continued to save individual buildings after retiring to Norfolk. She started the publication of lists of threatened buildings in 1966, and in 1965 became the first Secretary of the British branch of the International Council on Monuments and Sites.

She was generous in helping new bodies and new people coming into the field - the society gave the newly formed Victorian Society a base until it was ready to stand on its own feet, and was the cornerstone of the Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies, which has become the regular forum for the discussion of matters of common concern between the many voluntary organisations and civil servants charged with preserving historic buildings.

Possibly her greatest contribution was the revival of the SPAB scholarship scheme which trained young architects in the proper repair of old buildings, at a period when this was not part of the regular architectural syllabus. The first post-war course was held in 1951. She and Harry had no children, and the scholars became part of an extended family. It was fitting that in 1988, the former scholars - many of whom now care



Painting of Monica Dance, Secretary of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, by David Hankinson

for major monuments - set up the Dance Scholarship Trust to ensure the continuation of the scheme.

Hermione Holthouse

Monica Dance worked with passion for the SPAB for over 50 years, and played a truly historic role as Secretary, writes the Duke of Grafton.

I can speak with intimate knowledge because I actually worked with her in the office at Great Ormond Street for some years before becoming chairman of the executive committee. I am not exaggerating when I say that Monica Dance taught me everything I now know about ancient buildings.

Her extraordinary energy and determination inspired people to do the impossible. She was never known to say

HISTORICAL NOTES

NORMAN STONE

Russia was better off under the Tsars

THERE WAS always one argument that Soviet Communism could use. It was that Old Russia had been very backward, full of drunken peasants, and that Stalin, with his Five Year plans to create modern industry, had changed all that. Soviet planning might therefore be extended, with profit, to other backward parts of the world. A central part of this argument - very fashionable in the Sixties and Seventies - was that Tsarist Russia had been defeated by the Germans, whereas Stalin won the next round, and would not have done so without the industrial wherewithal created, with so much sacrifice, in the Thirties.

Like most others of my Sixties generation, I had swallowed this business of Soviet modernisation. As a colleague says, if you are a young historian of Russia, trying to put together a coherent lecture, you do become a bit of a power-worshipper, because the Russian power-people, from Ivan the Terrible to Stalin, appear at least to get something done in that messy country.



Ludendorff: a rush of blood to the head

If you look into the facts of the First World War you will find that the Russians did not lose the First World War because they were materially too weak. In 1914, Russia was already the fourth economic power in the world, and of course that could be translated into guns, shell, aircraft, barbed wire etc. The Tsarist government took time about things, for various very Russian reasons - exaggerating the capacity of foreigners to deliver, mistrust between various bits of government and army, the wrong people in charge. However, by the autumn of 1915, the war industry was starting to move adequately enough, and in summer 1916, the Russians nearly won.

Some of this story had been hidden, partly because the Communists did not want to give the Tsarist state any credit, and partly because the generals, in their memoirs, blamed their woes on material shortages instead of their own inefficiency, which was prodigious. When I looked into things, it became plain that the army had lost battles because it was very badly led. In the Second World War, it also started off very badly led, but this time the shock to the system of a German invasion caused even Stalin's bloodthirsty old brutes to develop a degree of competence. And the

real difference, looking back on it, was that the Germans in the Second World War were a great deal less efficient than they had been in the First. In 1914-18, they had some idea where to stop, and some idea of their own limits.

It is true that there were German commanders, Ludendorff the best-known, who had a rush of blood to the head at the idea of a German empire in Russia. But others knew that it was just not possible, and they stayed short of a full-scale invasion, merely wearing Russia down. In March 1918, they did not annex Russian land directly, preferring to rule through satellite states - those Lithuanians and Ukrainians and Georgians which, once more today, have re-appeared.

The "sort of pre-Petrine Muscovy" that the German Foreign Office then imagined has now also re-emerged. It has been desperately ravaged by Communism, and one measure of this is that the adult male age upon death, now 68 in Turkey, is in Russia now 54. It embarrasses me to see that Western historians who would once happily prattle on about "Soviet modernisation" are still prattling away this time about "transition from socialism". Any Russian knows that Communism was not planning for a brighter future at all: the place was better off under the poor old Tsars.

Norman Stone is the author of 'The Eastern Front 1914-1917' (Penguin, £8.99)

Tiny Rowland

IN 1973 I wrote a leading article for the *Spectator* attacking Edward Heath's denunciation of Tiny Rowland and Louro as presenting "the unacceptable face of capitalism" by paying directors through the tax haven of the Cayman Islands, writes Patrick Cosgrave (further to the obituary by Nicholas Faith, 27 July). I wrote without consulting Louro.

The grounds for my attack were threefold. First, there was, at the time, a continuing boardroom battle for control of Louro: in my view the Prime Minister was acting improperly in - effectively - intervening in that battle. Second, no Louro director had acted illegally if the Prime Minister thought that the state of the law was unsatisfactory he should change it, not preach about it. Third, I thought that, if the Prime Minister really thought that Rowland's conduct was unacceptable, he should say so outside the safe haven of the House of Commons, and risk a libel suit.

The following morning my telephone rang. A quiet voice, with a hint of a stammer, asked to speak to the writer of the article. I identified myself and the voice went on: "My name is Rowland. I want to buy 30,000 copies of your paper and I want to invite you to lunch." At that time, in a good week, the *Spectator* sold about 10,000 copies.

From time to time over the next few years I lunched in the Louro boardroom, having learned early on that Rowland would almost never accept an invitation for elsewhere or, if he did, he would cancel at the last moment. I had not seen him for some time when, on the Monday after the 1979 general election, I was summoned to lunch again.

He had one question: what was the new Prime Minister going to do about Rhodesia? Although I had worked for Mrs Thatcher, I had only the haziest notion about her African policy, and said so. "Then guess," Rowland said. I said I thought it probable that she would

move to recognise the government of Bishop Muzorewa. "I see. What are you doing for the rest of the week?"

I told him that I had an engagement in Oxford the following day, but was free thereafter. "Right. If I introduced you to an African politician who would explain why that course would be unwise, would you undertake to send a note of your conversation to Mrs Thatcher?" Imagining lunch somewhere in London with one of his African friends, I said yes.

"Good. Have a drink and wait for me here."

He was back within half an hour, and spoke without preamble. "You're having dinner with President Kaunda at State House in Lusaka on Wednesday. We'll get you there." That was the first evidence I had seen of the ramifications and strength of Rowland's African links. On Wednesday I duly dined with the chairman of the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Governments Conference, and I was to get to know a good many more

Talk of the doctor 'doing a de Gaulle'

THE DELIGHT of the current power struggle for the soul of the Social Democratic Party is the sheer openness of the process. Backstabbing has been replaced by front-stabbing. But there is now so much more on the battleground that it can be difficult to disentangle the entrails.

Nevertheless, certain conclusions can be drawn. David Owen will remain outside any new party that will be created. David Steel will end up with a new party without David Owen. That new party, which will include Lord Jenkins, Shirley Williams, Bill Rodgers, and the vast bulk of the party's existing 58,000 membership, along with the Liberals, will be both radical and uncompromisingly anti-Thatcher.

Because Dr Owen will not belong to the new party, it might eventually come to some form of anti-Tory agreement with the Labour Party, but probably not during the lifetime of this parliament. Neil Kinnock is adamantly opposed to proportional representation, never mind an electoral pact. No fundamental realignment of the centre-left can therefore be expected before the next election.

If that election brought a hung parliament, Mr Kinnock and Mr Steel, untrammelled by Dr Owen, would be more likely to reach a working agreement. On the other hand, the leader of the Labour Party can sometimes be as intransigent as Dr Owen, so it is entirely possible that British politics might end up where it started.

The simplest scenario, now that a majority of votes has been cast by SDP members in favour of merger, begins later

THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE

7 AUGUST 1987

It is generally conceded that David Owen is a man of political clout. But he would not be the first politician of standing to opt for the Westminster wilderness

be left with the money so generously donated to the SDP by David Sainsbury, of grocery fame, the party's expensively located headquarters in Westminster's Cowley Street, a staff depleted by defections, a meaningless computerised membership list, and his firm commitment to an independent nuclear deterrent.

All of that can, and has been, anticipated by Mr Steel and Dr Owen's SDP opponents. Certainly, it is volunteered that there can be no question of the new party being a quick "re-spray" job on the Liberal Party. The changes to be made in the SDP did back in 1981.

Which leaves the good doctor, so endearingly described this week as "that sonofabitch" by one of his former senior Liberal colleagues. It is generally conceded across the Westminster spectrum that David Owen is a man of political clout. But he would not be the first politician of standing to opt for the Westminster wilderness.

There is a great deal of talk of the "doctor doing a de Gaulle", and waiting for the call. But as Dr Owen said in June: "I am a Social Democrat and I intend to remain a Social Democrat. There are lots of things for me to do. You don't always have to be leader of a political party." Yesterday, his leadership was just one of the sad casualties of the battle.

Anthony Bevins

From 'The Independent', Friday 7 August 1987

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

DUNN: Richard Johann Dunn CBE, died unexpectedly on 4 August. Much loved husband of Jigga and father of Andrew, William and Elizabeth. A private family funeral will be held in Suffolk followed by a memorial service at a later date to be announced. In lieu of flowers, any donations to Imperial Cancer Research or the British Heart Foundation.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, 24.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Include a telephone number.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Scots Guards.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr David Allan, disc jockey, 59; The Right Rev David Bentley, Bishop of Gloucester, 63; Mr Greg Chappell, cricketer, 50; Mr Neil Clarke, former chairman, British Coal, 64; Professor Herbert Elvin, former Director, London University Institute of Education, 93; Mr Matthew Evans, chairman, Faber and Faber, 57; Mr Ian Fraser, former chairman of Lazard Bros, 75; Mr Stan Freberg, satirist, 72; The Right Rev Andrew Graham, former Bishop of Newcastle, 69; Sir Paul Hawkins, former MP, 86; Mr Kenneth Kendall, broadcaster, 74; Sir Andrew Large, chairman, Securities and Investment Board, 56; Miss Sue Lloyd, actress, 59; Mr Owen Luder, architect, 70; Dame Ella Macknight, gynaecologist, 94; Vice-Admiral Sir Hector Maclean, 90; Mr Matthew Parris, journalist and broadcaster, 49; Mr Nick Ross, journalist and broadcaster, 51; Mr Alexei Sayle, comedian, 46; Mr Philip Snow, writer, 83; Mr Roger Stott MP, 55; Mr Walter Swinburn, jockey, 57; Sir Richard Sykes, chairman and chief executive, Glaxo Wellcome, 56; Mr Erik Tunseth, chairman, Trafalgar House, 52; Mr John Young,

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Abbe Maximilian Stadler, priest and composer, 1748; Dean Frederic William Farrar, theologian and author of *Eric, or Little by Little*, 1831; Sir Granville Bantock, composer and conductor, 1868; Mata Hari (Margaretha Geertruida Zelle), spy, 1876; Billie Burke (Mary William Ethelbert Appleton Burke), actress, 1885; Louis Seymour Bazett Leakey, archaeologist and anthropologist, 1903.

Deaths: Robert Blake, British admiral, 1857; Caroline, Queen of George IV, 1821; Joseph-Marie Jacquard, weaver and inventor, 1834; Bix (Leon Bismarck) Beiderbecke, jazz cornet-player and composer, 1931; Konstantin Stanislavsky (Konstantin Sergeyevich Alekseyev), theatre director, 1938; Sir Rabindranath Tagore, writer, 1941; Oliver Norvell Hardy, film comedian, 1957; Bridget Antonia Brophy (Lady Levey), novelist, 1995.

On this day: Henry Tudor (later King Henry VII) land-

ed at Millford Haven in a bid for the crown, 1485; the first race meeting at Ascot was instituted by Queen Anne, 1711; the newspaper *New England Courant* was first published in Boston, 1721; the two suffragettes Mrs Mary Leigh and Gladys Evans were sentenced to five years penal servitude for setting fire to the Theatre Royal, Dublin, 1912; Louis Philippe was proclaimed "citizen king" of France, 1830; an act of Parliament was passed prohibiting the employment of climbing boys as chimney-sweeps, 1840; Ottawa became the capital of Canada, 1858; in London, Finsbury Park was opened, occupying the land of the former Hornsey Wood, 1889; Florence Maybrick was found guilty of murdering her husband, 1888; Britain issued £1 and 10-shilling notes, 1914; the Daylight Saving Act, which permanently established British Summer Time, was passed, 1925; the first motor racing Grand Prix in Britain was held at Brooklands, 1926; Britain's transatlantic airmail service began, 1939; US forces landed on Guadalcanal, 1942; in Colombia, a train drawing seven trucks containing dynamite exploded, killing 1,200 people, 1956; the French colony of

the Ivory Coast became independent, 1960.

Today is the Feast Day of Saints Agapitus, Sixtus II and Felicitissimus, St Albert of Trapani, St Cajetan or Gaetano, St Claudia, St Dognetius the Persian, St Donatus of Arezzo, St Victorinus.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Colin Wiggin, "Chests (I): Ingres, Madame Moutessier", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Frances Musker, "Victorian Fashion", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Simon Morley, "Patrick Heron and the Shape of Colour", 1pm.

SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 8.24pm. United Synagogues: 0181-343 3089. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-402 2283. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1653. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-259 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-328 1628.

WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON
dyslexia, n.

combining all the sounds that anyone needing to ask for a speech therapist might have trouble saying. A friend once told me of an embarrassing attack of

nominal aphasia she had suffered in a restaurant. She had suddenly forgotten the word "knife" and was reduced to asking the waiter for "you know, one of those things you cut with". How wonderful, I thought, that she could forget the word "knife" but have no trouble recalling the phrase "nominal aphasia".

Let there be light

Was the Cambrian diversity of life 'switched on' by colour vision? The book of Genesis may have had the answer all along. By Steve Connor

It was arguably the most important event in the history of life on Earth, yet biologists have been scratching their heads over it ever since Charles Darwin formulated his theory of evolution.

Why did life bump along for thousands of millions of years with nothing much more complicated than a jellyfish ever evolving, until suddenly, about 570 million years ago, it went through an explosive period of immense diversity that can still be seen in animals today?

Nobody has ever really explained this "Cambrian explosion" satisfactorily, but one British-born scientist working in Australia believes he has the answer.

Andrew Parker, a researcher at the Australian Museum in Sydney, believes the explanation for the huge diversification of life during the Cambrian period was the sudden invention of colour vision. Parker believes it was like a "light switch" that turned the spotlight on living organisms and ultimately inspired the huge range of body plans that exist today in animals as diverse as butterflies and blue whales.

At the heart of his theory is the discovery of microscopic grooves on fossils of the Cambrian period, which, Parker believes, had the same effect on light as the grooves of a compact disc. When light shines on these grooves, it becomes diffracted - reflected in a distorted way - so that the surface shines with bright, iridescent colours. It is the same physical phenomenon that makes a CD or a hologram on a credit card shimmer like a rainbow.

Parker's controversial idea is simple enough. With the sudden appearance of bright coloration in the otherwise drab world of early life forms, a new dimension was added to the forces of natural selection, the power behind evolutionary change. Colour vision made it easier to see and be seen, which is good for attracting mates and detecting food, but bad for prey species who want to avoid predators. As Darwin himself remarked in his 1859 classic *The Origin of Species*: "Whenever colour has been modified for some special purpose, this has been, as far as we can judge, either for direct or indirect protection, or as an attraction between sexes."

The importance of the Cambrian explosion in the history of life cannot be underestimated. For about 3.5 billion years, evolution had produced nothing particularly complicated in terms of body architecture. Suddenly, a biological explosion occurred, when the Cambrian period started. (It takes its title from the ancient name for Wales, where rock sediments of this age were first identified in the 19th century).

Biologists called it the Big Bang of evolution, but were puzzled as to what had caused it. "With few possible exceptions, the Cambrian explosion represents the most dramatic event in the history of life on earth," Dr Parker says. "However, until recently we could not explain what lit the Cambrian fuse, and why evolution did not continue at this frantic pace."

It was a period when, in a relatively short period of less than 10 million years (a blink of an eye, in terms of life's long history), living organisms underwent an astonishing change in diversity.

Before the Cambrian explosion there were only one or two basic phyla - body plans for living organisms. Within the space of a few millions of years, however, the Cambrian explosion had resulted in the creation of 38 new phyla of animals - and no more phyla have come about since then.

Before the Cambrian period, animals floated around as mere blobs of living tissue, or lived virtually sedentary lives on the sea floor; they were no more animated than the average bathroom sponge. After the explosion of diversity, life forms walked and crawled, swam and burrowed, and generally took on the diverse array of behaviours and lifestyles that we now associate as marking the essential difference between animal and vegetable life forms.

'With few possible exceptions, the Cambrian explosion represents the most dramatic event in the history of life on earth'

ference between animal and vegetable life forms.

The most important source of information about what happened in the Cambrian period comes from a quarry in the Canadian Rocky Mountains. Excavations there have exposed a large slab of sedimentary rock known as the Burgess Shale. It is within this rock that scientists have discovered the diverse nature of Cambrian life forms.

Simon Conway Morris, a Cambridge palaeontologist who has made a lifetime's study of the Cambrian period, says in his latest book, *The Crucible of Creation*, that the Burgess Shale is a monument to the understanding of how life evolved. "It represents a reference point and a benchmark, a point of common discussion and an issue of universal scientific interest. Just as Darwin's finches on the Galapagos Islands exemplify the recognition of the central role of adaptation... so the Burgess Shale is becoming the icon for those who study the history of life," writes Conway Morris.

The unique nature of the Burgess Shale fossils is that they have preserved the soft body parts of an astonishing array of animals whose bizarre appearance are straight from the pages of science fiction. There is the mysterious Hallucigenia, so-called because it reminded biologists of a bizarre dream; the creatures walked on still-like legs, with flexible siphons emerging from

their backs. There is Anomalocaris, a voracious predator that swam in the shallow seas of the Cambrian using wing-like fins. Anomalocaris had two vicious jaws for gripping and crushing prey and large eyes for detecting its next meal.

It was another bizarre animal from the Cambrian, called Wiwaxia, that has inspired Andrew Parker's light-switch theory. Wiwaxia looks like a Viking helmet, with two sets of spines emerging from the side. Experts such as Conway Morris believe that it crawled slowly on the sea floor, and used its spines for protection against predators.

Parker found microscopic grooves in the spines of Wiwaxia which gave the surface a corrugated appearance and presumably were initially used for strengthening. But because the distances between the grooves are on a par with the wavelength of light, Parker believes the grooves would also have acted as a diffraction grating, distorting white light into a range of iridescent colours. According to Parker, this development would give Wiwaxia an advantage because the bright colours would have advertised its defensive spines, and so warned off predators such as Anomalocaris.

Parker has found similar diffraction gratings on other animals of the Cambrian period, and believes he has uncovered a crucial development that accelerated the evolution of colour vision and, with it, the adaptation of new lifestyles and, ultimately, a range of radically different types of animals.

"Light, in general, is the most powerful stimulus in most of today's environments," Parker says. "Before the Cambrian, light, though present, could not have had a major effect on the lives of multicellular animals because they were all blind."

"At the beginning of the Cambrian, the lights were effectively 'turned on' for these animals. Then, for the first time, animals would have been 'lit up', and therefore obvious to predators."

"Animals suddenly had to adapt to a stimulus that was to become the most important of all: light. The inevitable chaos resulted in an explosion in evolution," he says.

Experts in evolutionary theory are taking Parker's idea seriously, although they are understandably reluctant to give him their full backing just yet. Stephen Jay Gould, the Harvard evolutionist who popularised the Burgess Shale story in his award-winning book, *Wonderful Life*, says the idea is "most interesting". Derek Briggs, professor of palaeontology at Bristol University, who knows more about the Cambrian period than probably anyone else, says that Parker is on to something. "This may well have been part of the story," he says.

If Briggs is right, then Parker may have stumbled across the answer to a problem that has foxed generations of biologists.

The most important moment in life on Earth may turn out to have been the turning on of a simple light switch that suddenly bathed the biological world in all the colours of the rainbow.



Life as it was in the Cambrian period, about 570 million years ago. Bizarre life forms inhabited the shallow, warm seas that covered Earth. The predatory Anomalocaris (lower picture) was armed with two vicious jaws and the docile Wiwaxia (bottom left of the picture) defended itself with spines. Pictures courtesy Oxford University Press

UPDATE

A CARDBOARD can for fizzy drinks has been created by a team of British researchers who claim it is a breakthrough in recycling technology. It is the first time anyone has created a cardboard container strong enough to hold a carbonated beverage. This week's *New Scientist* reports that Richard Freeman, of Scientific Generics, in Cambridge, made the can with four layers of thin cardboard, with seams staggered for strength. An aluminium membrane is sprayed inside to make it airtight; the ends are plugged with shallow cones pointing outwards, one of which can be removed to convert the can into a beaker.

A SINGLE gene could be the switch that determines the left- and right-hand symmetry in vertebrates - animals with backbones. Although we are nearly symmetrical on the outside, the inside of our bodies is asymmetrical. Our hearts are on one side and our intestines loop and coil in an asymmetrical pattern. Scientists have puzzled over what causes this internal asymmetry during the development of the vertebrate embryo. Now, in a paper in *Nature*, they think they have found a gene called *Pitx2* that alters the position of organs and the direction of body rotation in the embryos of chicks and frogs. Changes in *Pitx2* also affect the asymmetrical development of mice, so it is almost certainly involved in human development as well.

A MAN from Seattle has become the first person to sue under a new law in the United States to stem the proliferation of unsolicited e-mail messages - "spam". Adam Engst, an author of computer books, filed the suit against WorldTouch Network, a Los Angeles company, for allegedly sending him more than 100 unsolicited e-mails since the Washington state law came into effect on 11 June. Victims of spam attacks in Britain have no such recourse to the law - yet.

The Government is to fund a multi-million-pound research ship for oceanographic studies. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said the vessel, to be delivered by 2002, will conduct long-term research into fisheries and the environmental needs of the next century. Negotiations are under way to sign up a team of marine consultants to advise on buying the ship, which will be based at the Centre of Environmental Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences in Lowestoft. A key area of research for the vessel will be gathering data on fish stocks, water quality, the safety of seafood and studies into fish biology and ocean circulation.

THE TRUTH ABOUT...

LYING

IN A WEEK or so, President Bill Clinton will have to answer questions about his relationship, or lack of one, with Monica Lewinsky. The question on everyone's lips is: did he lie in denying a sexual relationship?

Deception is one of the distinguishing characteristics of human behaviour, although higher primates are also thought to go in for it in a more limited capacity. Lying requires an understanding of what psychologists call "false belief". You must perceive that what somebody else knows about a situation is incomplete or wrong; and then you knowingly allow that to continue - or even exploit it.

Parents are often shocked when they first find that their children can lie to them. Lying, however, is a sign of growing maturity.

Donald Christie, senior lecturer in educational studies at the University of Strathclyde, says: "Young

children, say, aged three, are capable of pretence. They will tease parents, pretending to do things. But there is complicity with the parent there."

For example, "peekaboo" games (in which the parent pretends to hide) amuse very young children. Both players know the other has not really gone. But neither is lying to the other.

Generally, children develop an ability to deceive intentionally at about five years old, though it will be earlier if they have more social interaction with other human beings.

Donald Christie says: "Deception means the child has an interest in maintaining a difference between its understanding of a situation and other people's. That's usually associated with an awareness of consequences - that telling the truth may get you into trouble, or gain you something."

That awareness of



Bill Clinton - is he telling the truth?

consequences often leads to the signs that adults can recognise in lying children - blushing, shiftness and tension. The same effects, on a lesser scale, can be

picked up in adults using lie-detectors that monitor blood pressure, heart rate and breathing. Though those are autonomic responses - not usually under conscious

control - adults can learn to control them by minimising their perception of the consequences of lying. Thus lie detectors are not infallible.

That understanding of the mixture of pretence, consequence and false belief is known as "theory of mind". It could be paraphrased as the ability to see things from someone else's point of view.

Interestingly, people with certain mental disorders show important differences in their "theory of mind" and proclivity to lie.

Those with autism (which affects people's ability to interact with others) are often slow to develop the ability to lie, or even lack it altogether. That is a disadvantage in a language-based society.

Mr Christie says: "A socially sophisticated person knows when to withhold a remark that might otherwise be hurtful. There is a degree to which lies are socially cohesive."

Monica and Bill, take note.

CHARLES ARTHUR

TECHNOQUEST

Q Why do storm clouds look darker than normal clouds?

Storm clouds have a lot of water in them in droplets that are larger than those in normal clouds. These larger droplets absorb and scatter more light than smaller ones, so the storm clouds look darker.

Q Where does the word 'magnet' come from?

Ancient Greeks first found magnetic rocks in an area called Magnesia, in what is now Turkey, hence "magnet".

Q What does the term 'smokeless zone' mean?

Smokeless zones were introduced in 1956 to try to solve the smog problem in Britain. So much fuel was being burnt that it was creating a smoky fog - a smog - that killed several thousand people during the winter months. Smokeless fuels do not produce particulates such as soot and ash, so they do not create a smog.

Q Why did penny farthings have such big wheels?

The larger the wheel in this

early design of bike, the faster the rider could go, as the pedals were directly connected to the wheel without any gearing mechanism. The only way to make the bicycle travel further for each turn of the pedal was to enlarge the wheel to which the pedals were connected. This did make for some difficult bikes to ride, though, and the design was soon replaced by smaller models with gearing mechanisms.

Q What is the purpose of the spirals that you see around tall chimneys in factories and hospitals?

These spirals were developed after the Second World War to "shed vortices". Any tall, thin structure will have problems remaining upright because of the wind. The spirals help to stop the chimneys being blown over.

Q How many blood cells are there in an average person?

There are about 5 billion red blood cells in every millilitre of blood, which gives a total of 245,000,000,000 (245 billion) in the average-sized person.

They are all sent around the body once every minute.

Q Is the ice crust on the polar seas made of falling snow? At what temperature does the sea freeze? Are icebergs made of fresh water?

Sea water is very cold and its freezing temperature depends on its salt content. Water gets less dense as it cools because of the bonding structure in the ice lattice pushing molecules further apart than they are when in liquid state. The sea freezes at about 2°C due to the salt content but frozen icebergs have virtually no salt in them. They are lumps of ice from the mainland glaciers that have formed from normal snow - that is, fresh water. Because the sea is constantly moving, falling snow doesn't normally affect ice sheets. Icebergs made of salty water do exist, but they are rare. You can visit the technoquest World Wide Web site at <http://www.science.net.org.uk>. Questions and answers provided by Science Line's Dial-a-Scientist on 0345 600144.

Joe 11/10/150

Pots of talent well applied

A London gallery is celebrating its golden jubilee – 50 years of the best of British crafts. Margot Coatts wishes the CAA many happy returns

In the scheme of things visual over the last 50 years, the crafts have come pretty low down the scale. Gradually, imperceptibly almost, all that has changed. The work of craft makers, designer-makers, or what you will, is in every fashionable location and magazine. In London, the single most active gallery, dedicated to its subject for half a century now, is Contemporary Applied Arts (the CAA) in Percy Street. Its new exhibition of useful pots by six ceramicists, opens today.

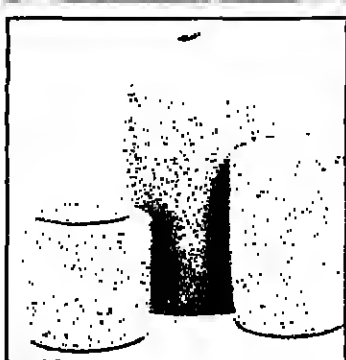
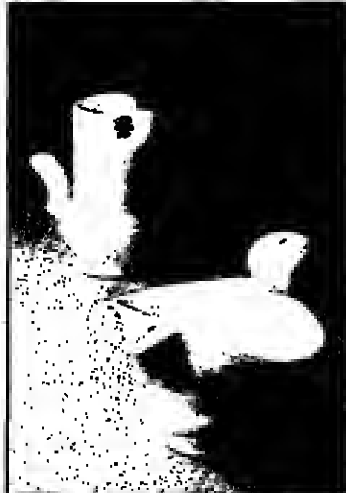
The CAA is a smart, efficient and vital gallery. Its remit, as a registered charity, is to promote the best of British craft: its position is authoritative, yet not radical.

It started life in 1948 as the Crafts Centre of Great Britain in Hay Hill, a rat-run for fast traffic in Mayfair. This was two decades before the body that turned into the Crafts Council was founded, and the Centre was kick-started by a hefty capital grant from the Board of Trade. Then, as now, it was governed by a council, which at that point was drawn from the membership of five different craft societies, led by the wood-engraver John Farleigh. Wood-engraving and lithography were counted among the "fine crafts" in those days and were featured equally with pottery, furniture, books and weaving.

The early Fifties was a time of artistic flux and unquenchable optimism, but relatively little variety in the crafts. Although exhibitors included such luminaries as the potter Bernard Leach and Michael Cardew, and furniture-makers Edward Barnsley and David Pye, there was a shortage of good quality work for exhibition.

Not until the later Fifties, when the "new" jewellers such as Gerda Flockinger began to emerge, and woven textiles moved forward a generation, did the scope for galleries and collectors broaden. Peter Collingwood and Barbara Sawyer, for instance, showed experimental rugs, "hangings" and open-weave placemats. Today the exhibitions at Hay Hill appear stern and worthy, full of oak, sisal and stoneware, but they were a must for devotees of architecture and design who shopped at Heal's and followed modern jazz.

In the mid-Sixties, the Crafts Centre moved to Earlsam Street in Covent Garden: it underwent several



changes of administration and funding, was re-christened the British Crafts Centre, and was governed by a wise and resourceful chairman, Graham Hughes. Hughes was then Art Director of Goldsmiths' Hall, and introduced Alan Irvine, an architect, and the Hall's curator/exhibition organiser, John Houston. Together they converted a large, lock-up "garage", previously used to store barrows from the vegetable market, into a West End gallery, albeit with a cobbles-floored Houston recalls: "It was the era when, for people with versatile artistic skills, anything was possible."

The exhibitions Hughes and his colleagues devised were far from spartan: Goldsmiths loaned large pyramidal and hexagonal glass showcases with slub-silk linings and exterior pendant lights. In the Sixties they contained exhibitions of glass by Sam Herman or porcelain by Victor Margrie, and in the Seventies, jewellery by Wendy Ramshaw and David Watkins or bone china by Glensy Barton and Jacqueline Poncet. Less delicate

or valuable items were displayed on grey Formica-topped tables, while hairy textiles hung on the walls.

Exhibitions in all media came thick and fast, but ceramics have always been high on the agenda. From abroad came the occasional loan exhibition. The crafts gained in popularity, due in part to the publicity they received from design journalists such as Fiona MacCarthy, Barty Phillips and Edwin Mullins.

Not until the mid Eighties, under the directorship of Tatjana Marsden, did the British Crafts Centre regain some of its original focus. The gallery held solo shows of leading figures as well as mixed exhibitions, alternating artefacts by makers at the cutting edge with those with a more traditional message. In January 1987 the name was changed to Contemporary Applied Arts.

From the early Seventies until 1996, Contemporary Applied Arts received funding annually through the Crafts Advisory Committee, or the Crafts Council. In 1996, this support was axed and the gallery now exists on income from retail turnover, periodic sponsorship from City livery companies or the business sector, and memberships fees.

The current director, Mary la Trobe Bateman took over in 1994, after a career in interior design and with first-hand understanding of the craft person's lot, for she is married to the distinguished furniture-maker Richard la Trobe Bateman.

On joining CAA she found a desperate financial situation: "When I first arrived I had to even mend the cash till myself – flames would lick out and we had no money to employ an electrician." She decided to look for alternative accommodation and, after scouring the West End, found the former Janet Fitch shop at 2 Percy Street, Fitzrovia – central but not too expensive.

Her vision was carried forward by the architects Allies and Morrison, who designed a deep, well-lit space, visible from the street. It provides for three kinds of operation: a peaceful upper gallery reached by a ramp, a reception area for solo displays, and a basement shop which is invitingly served by wide steps on which robust items are shown. The staircase wall has a dramatic five-metre drop, always occupied by work from a textile artist.

After moving in, La Trobe Bateman gradually overhauled her staff,



Top, inset: Keeler's creamware jugs; left, inset: glazed pots by Edmund de Waal; above: Spira on display at CAA Adrian Dennis

creating four special-subject managers. She sees the job before them as a fostering as well as a retailing role: "Young people need quite a lot of advice in pricing, and through the 'focus' showcases, we encourage them to make innovative work, then introduce them to the buyers."

La Trobe Bateman has further ideas, but for the moment realises she must encourage the consumer to enjoy the widest possible range of quality crafts. Followers are growing in number: "People want special objects around them."

The current exhibition assembles the cream of Britain's useful pots. In the last five years, Edmund de Waal and Rupert Spira, who are still in

their thirties, have come to rapid prominence. The popularity of their work was due initially to their direct, minimalist approach to design, sleek uncrafty materials, and, it must be said, affordable prices. Now, both are producing more refined pots which are a match for the more experienced exhibitors: Walter Keeler, Joanna Constantinidis, Takeshi Yasuda and Julian Stair.

All make plain pots, usually glazed in monochrome and quietly beautiful: it is not strictly necessary to handle them but the fun increases if you do. Take Yasuda's creamware jugs: they have a raised thumb tab, a pinched lip and the occasional dent or dimple, made with

a deftness seen in fresh crusty bread. Creamware of such charm has not been made in Britain for nearly two centuries and now Keeler has abandoned his famous salt-glazed stoneware in favour of "twiggy" creamware jugs.

Intellectual games with form can often be just that, but here they are laced with humanism. Julian Stair's oval teapots – in white porcelain or red stoneware – have seven joined elements, plus a twisted wistaria-stem handle; they combine constructing in clay with throwing on the wheel, expanding the shapes into what Stair calls "soft geometry".

Throwing is the basis of all six potters' work and it is the impetus which

renders both making and using the pots a fascinating experience. Taking these apparently simple matters seriously, by highlighting them in the normally passive arena of the gallery or the museum, is an indicator of a change in attitude to pots destined predominantly for the domestic environment. In Edmund de Waal's words: "If they don't demand to be picked up, then they are not working."

'Contemporary Pots' is one of a series of exhibitions to celebrate Contemporary Applied Arts' 50th year; it runs 7 August to 19 September at 2 Percy Street, London WC1 (0171-436 2344)

THE MILLENNIUM COLLECTION

NO 7: THE LOTUS ELISE

So far, more than 200 Millennium objects have been chosen for excellent design. Each week we examine one of them...

WHAT'S IN a design? Is it a thing that by any other name would sell as well? Or is it the name that persuades us, floated on a cloud of marketing and driven by the wind of universal approbation? In other words, would the Lotus Elise be the success it is, and such a clear Millennium Product choice, were it not spawned by that famous name?

As one who normally abjures sports cars, and for whom the pinnacle of automotive design is probably the Massey Ferguson 35 tractor, I should never have thought to answer with such an emphatic "Yes". This car is something different. As with the original Land Rover, they've got it right first time

and it has that same rare combination of radical innovation and instant familiarity. It's a happy, cheeky, cheerful, graceful animal of a car, and it goes like whip.

Good design is the expression of engineering imagination through perfect unity of style and function. Looks are very important, but they are only a part of the process which began, with the Elise, where it should – from the bottom up. The extruded aluminium chassis (bonded rather than welded) is an inspiring example of using all the potential of the material – playing to its strengths – rather than thinking of it as a substitute for something else, such as steel. In the attractively Spartan cabin, the chassis is exposed, not just because it would cost or weigh more to cover it, but as a positive style feature. It works because of the unity inherent

in the very conception of this car, which makes most others look like blocks of Lego.

And feel like it. Once you've got in – and any woman who can manage that in a tight skirt gets the coveted Millennium Contortionist Award – the firm seats are surprisingly comfortable, even for the chronic back sufferer. At 60mph it feels like 120mph and at 120mph (yes, we did you laugh aloud. It goes through corners like a rattlesnake, which Lotus attribute to their outstanding suspension, but there's clearly a giant magnet huilt into the test track. It's not a difficult car to drive, but it's not so easy that you don't notice you're driving. It is a driver's car whose ways you must learn and respect.

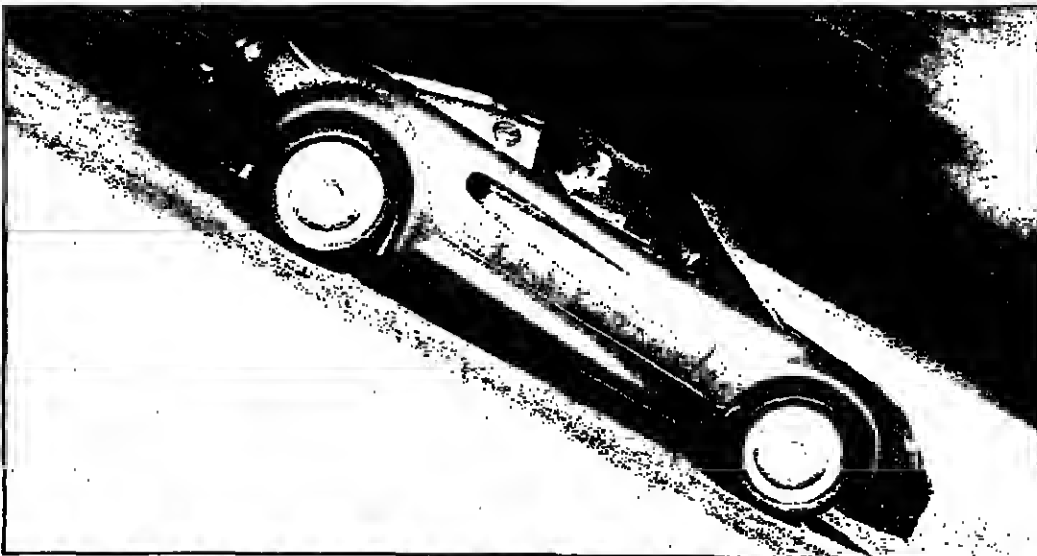
Just as it takes an outstanding gymnast to make somersaults look effortless, so it takes outstanding

design to make something as apparently simple as this. What you leave out is as important as what you put in: the barely noticeable lips beneath the front grill have all the aerodynamic function of a full-blown ugly spoiler.

Engineers at Lotus are not stylists, but the two breeds have produced the marriage between engineering and design that is at the heart of this car's success. Instead of the usual compromise, each is essential to the other, and there is nothing in the car that does not work for both. The result is not only an instant automotive classic, but a lesson in how to imagine.

ALAN JUDD

The Lotus Elise costs £21,700. Lotus can be contacted on 01953 606547; e-mail carsales@lotus.co.uk web site: www.lotus.co.uk



The Lotus Elise is a high-on perfect marriage of brilliant design and engineering

SOME LIKE IT HOT



LIKE MARY Poppins, the thermos flask is practically perfect in every way. Reliable and comforting, it dispenses gaspingly hot tea or frosty iced coffee as the vagaries of English weather dictate: it requires no hi-tech palaver to perform its minor miracle, and it is of sturdy, sensible and unchanging disposition.

Or at least, it was until recently. For while the flask's inner workings have remained unchanged for more than a century – a glass tube whose inner and outer walls are separated by a vacuum, with a silvery coating inside to reflect the heat – its outward appearance has undergone some decidedly fancy innovations of late.

Gone are the tiny tartans that delighted fishermen of yesteryear (shockingly, it is no longer possible to buy them in Britain, although they remain popular in France and Chile). In their stead are space-age steel, luminous plastics and even – perish the thought – a flask with ears (Alessi's Fred Worm, right, £22; for stockists call 01920 444272).

What would Sir James Dewar, who invented the vacuum flask in 1892, make of them? The canny Scot, whose other useful invention was cordite, was more interested in

liquid gases than hot coffee. It was left to a more thrusting German student of his to launch the flask commercially, which he did in 1902. Its name, Thermos – after the Greek word for "heat" – was chosen in a competition.

It was an instant success: "I consider that, for camp work in the polar region, these Thermos flasks are almost a necessity," cooed Ernest Shackleton. Today, Thermos's two English factories produce some four million flasks a year. While the original wooden cork has long been supplanted by plastic, the cup of a lid is a perennial favourite (Habitat have a £5 flask with cup; for stockists call 01645 334433).

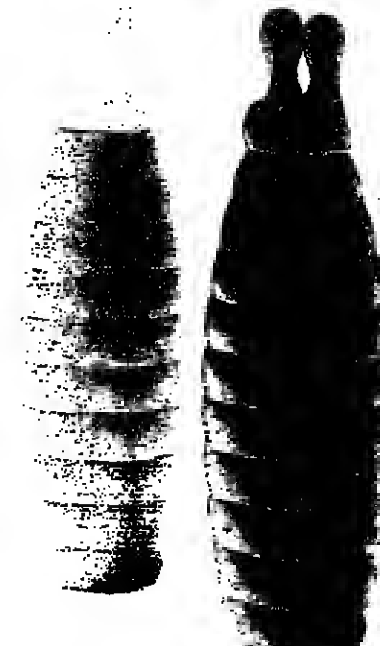
For followers of fashion, there is a new rash of possibilities. An American post-modern architect, Michael Graves, has created Alessi's Euclid, left, a ball of a flask with cube feet,

in fetching colour combinations (£52 from InHouse in Glasgow, 0141-552 5902, and Edinburgh, 0131 225 2888), while Ross Lovegrove and Julian Brown's Afri vacuum jugs employ PMMA – the stuff car lights are made from (in various colours, £25.95 at Aero, 0171-221 1950).

Toughest and sleekest is the baton-like metal tube: Zojimushi's Tuff Slim flask (from Heal's, 0171-636 1666); Thermos's own (£20 at Aero, 0171-221 1950); Marks and Spencer's Slimline £25, call 0171-935 4422 for stockists; 0945 905905 for a catalogue; while David Mellor's Butterfly elite even comes with a strap (£29.10, £21.55 without; 0171-730 4259).

And for those who can't do without colour, Bodum's Lipstick flasks, far left, come in blue, yellow, red and green (£9.95 from The Conran Shop, 0171-589 7401). What a picnic.

ANNABEL FREYBERG



JP 11/150

Wheeling and dealing

The South Bank looks set to become London's top millennial tourist attraction, thanks to the architects and businesses who teamed up to give it new life. By Nonie Niesewand

Millennium Mile is the fancy name for a bit of run-down riverfront called the South Bank on the Thames in London. For years it was known as the rat run, which is how traffic controllers describe the river's accelerating from the City to the West End.

Now it's a scenic route, planned more for pedestrians than drivers. The transformation has made the community who live there, and the firms who employ 40,000 workers in the area, so proud that they are staging an exhibition in the Oxo Tower from 24 August, of scale models, drawings and photographs of the buildings and the bridges in the cultural kilometre. Then you can visit the real thing.

Old favourites like the National Theatre, the Hayward, the Festival Hall and the GLC building – now two hotels and an aquarium – will be revealing their face-lifts for the first time. Proposals that haven't got off the drawing board will be up for discussion, like the Millennium ferris wheel at Southwark, which is being rejected as London's top tourist attraction, and the Lido Olympic pool with a glass roof that runs into a dance floor, by architects Lifschutz Davidson (currently seeking a new owner with around £15m to spend).

Bridges naturally loom large. Norman Foster's new Millennium bridge will link St Paul's to the new Tate at Bankside and Will Alsop's proposed new bridge at Blackfriars, now up for planning, refutes a description by the chairman of English Heritage, Jocelyn Stevens, as "a conom". Just why it isn't can be seen quite clearly from the elegant scale model which shows the interlocking platforms simultaneously embracing Blackfriars.

The Oxo tower, with its special arrangement of nothings and roses that spell out the name of the beef extract that beat the Thiries' ban on riverfront advertising, is a good place to stage this exhibition, which has been put together by various movers and shakers from the business community. With single stroke, known as the spine route, the South Bank Employers' group turned an exhaust-fumed, dirty grey and characterless zone into a tourist attraction.

"We have the chance to make this one of the most convivial parts of London, or we have to acknowledge failure and admit that an area just minutes from the Palace of Westminster will be dominated by the car

and the unfit subway." Ian Coull, chairman of the South Bank Employers Group, spelt out the future last year when he got the 17 businesses in the group to put their hands deep in their pockets to subsidise the Spine Route.

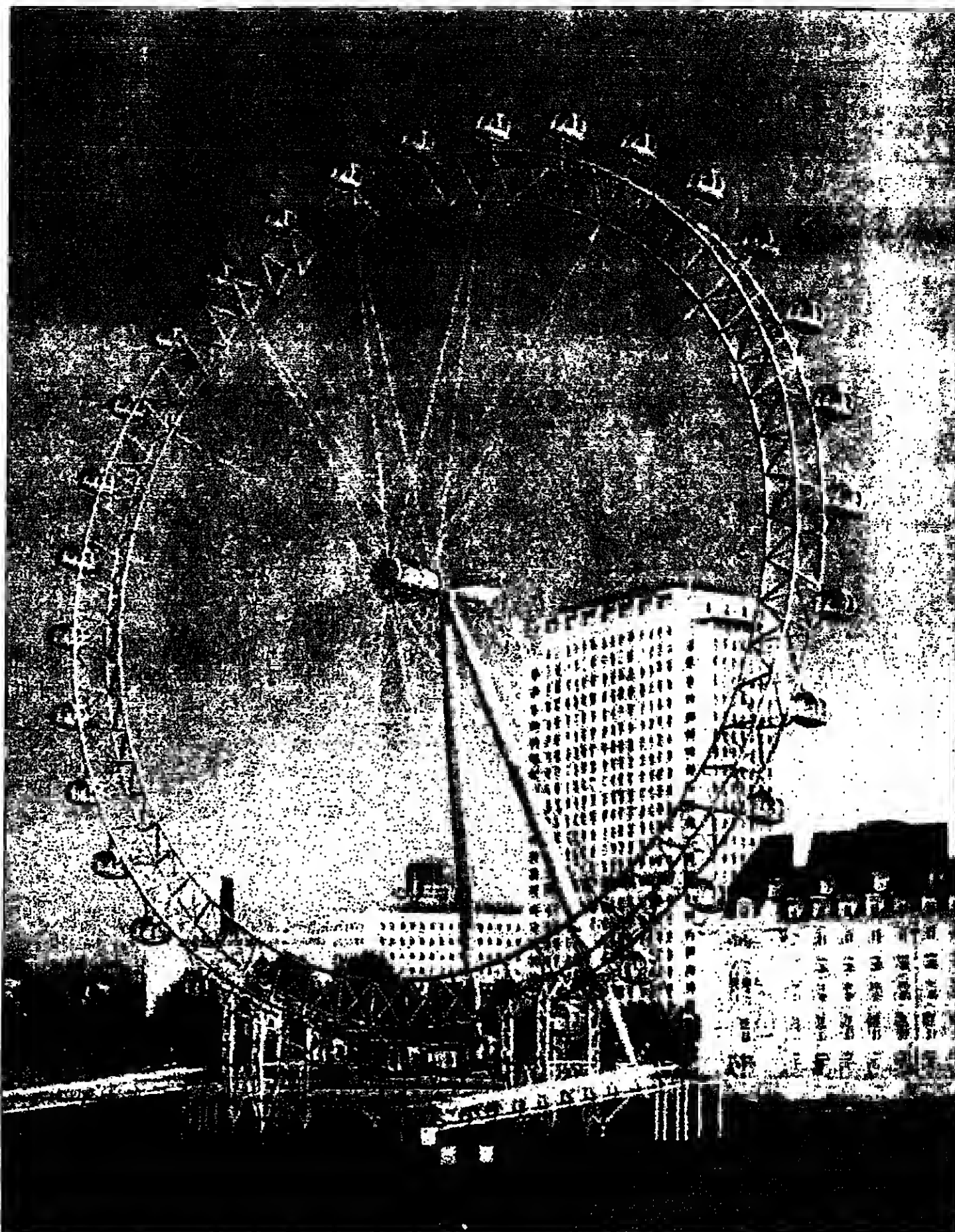
The Arts Council gave them £1m to hang 6-metre indelibly-inked banners off the street lights along the South Bank. It was the first initiative in a public arts programme that involved artists and the local community to transform a series of bleak spaces into a vibrant outdoor gallery. It helps to unite a disparate group of buildings: all the architectural gems that you will see in the Millennium Mile exhibition turn their worst side to the main thoroughfare. Interspersed with some hideous buildings, such as the Cell Block H of London Weekend Television and the Lubanka of IPC, the area certainly needed something to pull it all together.

Street furniture that was designed especially for the Millennium Mile gave it street cred. The architect Alex Lifschutz looked through every catalogue to try to find something with character that wasn't bolt-on heritage with ghastly Georgian lanterns. "It was like furnishing a room with a sofa at one end and a bath at the other," he said. "So much like 'heritage'."

"Every manufacturer came at it from a different point of view. Dustbin manufacturers are only interested in dustbins, lighting designers only in the lamppost." So with his partner Ian Davidson, and a concept from the traffic control design department CDT/HLS, they set about designing new street furniture that didn't look as if it had come from a car boot sale.

First, they narrowed the traffic lanes of Upper Ground, put in sleepers to slow traffic, and lined it with small steel drums that double as bollards and seats. They took the elegant tensile structure that was the tallest tower in the world at the Festival of Britain in 1951 – the Skyline, by Powell and Moya – as their inspiration for javelin-like posts to line the pavements. The Skyline Mark 2 supports lights, flower baskets, double-sided banners and street signs, in a very measured way. "It gives the characterless street an identity," says Lifschutz.

No decorator could have done more than the young architects Lifschutz Davidson to make over the main road. Now people eat in it, cruise it, party in it. London Weekend Television celebrated its birthday in it. It has a vitality and excitement about it. Even the hanging flower baskets, brightly sown



The Millennium Wheel: on 23 August Tussaud's will announce their plans to take it over and turn it into London's top tourist attraction. This week, the Tussauds Group announced the purchase of Thorpe Park. The £19m privately funded Ferris Wheel, which has British Airways support, is designed to be parked close to Westminster. The 450ft highest observation wheel, even after planning insisted on it being reduced by 10 percent from its original design by architects David Marks and Julia Barfield. Thirty-two capsules will each hold 25 persons. The wheel revolves in just under half an hour.

component, to free pavements and parks all over Britain.

"Take a snapshot of the street you live in, and highlight in yellow all the bits that furnish the street, to see how many bits and pieces litter our streets and public spaces," Alex advises.

Most streets look as if they were furnished from a car boot sale, with telephone circuitry boxes, lamp-posts, litter bins, road signs, bollards, benches and barricades designed to induce road rage in pedestrians. The MP for Vauxhall, Kate Hoey, once flagged all the dog turds in a square to make people notice the everyday things that despoil space.

Lifschutz Davidson have rationalised the tangle with a single modular post on which equipment can be clipped, including telephone boxes, parking meters, pay and display systems, dustbins, electronic signage and amplification systems for mobile phones and security cameras. "It's going to reduce clutter on the streets and let people breathe, and find their way through hurdles."

They have involved Royal Fine Arts early on in the project, to get their design accepted for sensitive historic sites. The prototype, made by Woodhouse in Warwick, will be ready in a few weeks and they hope to go on sale with the new system, which is called Meridian, in around three months time.

"Social identities and practices are shaped by people's experiences of the street," says Nicholas Fyfe, a senior lecturer in geography at the University of Strathclyde.

In *Images of the Street*, the new book he has edited on planning, identity and control in public spaces, London's South Bank gets only one mention: "The homeless sleeping elbow-to-elbow under cardboard containers on London's South Bank."

But not on the Millennium Mile.

with annuals by Lambeth Council, don't make it twice.

Like all modern architects, Alex Lifschutz worked on the space between buildings to make attractive views, opening out to the river, encouraging shops, wine bars and bistros to open at Gabriel's Wharf and to keep a riverfront walkway running parallel to the spine route. Two new, well lit and beautifully designed subways under Blackfriars

and London Bridge free the river route: Lambeth decorated theirs with Victorian photographs of bridge-building, and Southwark used Cornishian slate panels carved with scenes celebrating the frost fairs of the 17th century when the Thames froze over.

But Alex Lifschutz is not one to rest on his laurels – or the labour-mums planted along the pavements. Even though there are only these

two designs, the steel drum and the javelin, he thinks that they should have been used more sparingly. "My personal view is that we should have been a bit calmer about it and had a bit less street furniture."

He is most proud of the fact that they accomplished it all on the bits of land that weren't public spaces, and therefore needed co-operation from 23 landowners. "Most of the land is owned by the businesses.

Only occasionally will you see the little studs that delineate the public highway, but everyone agreed with Lambeth that this land would be thrown into the public realm rather than the private." The South Bank Employers' Group may have a boringly matter-of-fact name, but they can be proud of their vision.

Now Lifschutz Davidson has designed a new range of street furniture that seeks, with just one

Opening the gate to Europe

London's disembarkation point for Eurostar travellers is not a pretty site. But it could be. By Nonie Niesewand

THE FIRST glimpse of London that any Eurostar traveller from Paris or Brussels gets on arrival at Waterloo is a seriously congested multi-lane highway. A cement walkway on stilts from the Sixties crooks its leg at them. There are more barriers than the riot police in Paris can muster. All the buildings face the river and present their backside to the visitor. Worse, you have to wait for the green man at six pedestrian crossings to reach the river.

The "Gateway to Europe", as our Prime Minister has taken to calling our eight international termini, is not a pretty sight. Yet the International Terminal at Waterloo is used by 20,000 passengers a day, a figure likely to double in the next three years.

Chaos greets the overseas visitors and the quarter of a million commuters for whom Waterloo is the end of the line. Not for much longer. A new initiative to create Waterloo Square.

attention when Norman Foster presents his master plan for World Squares on 30 August, starting with the first phase, the pedestrianisation of the north side of Trafalgar Square. More pressing by far is Waterloo – "an assault on the senses for commuters and international travellers," as Ian Coull of South Bank Employers describes it.

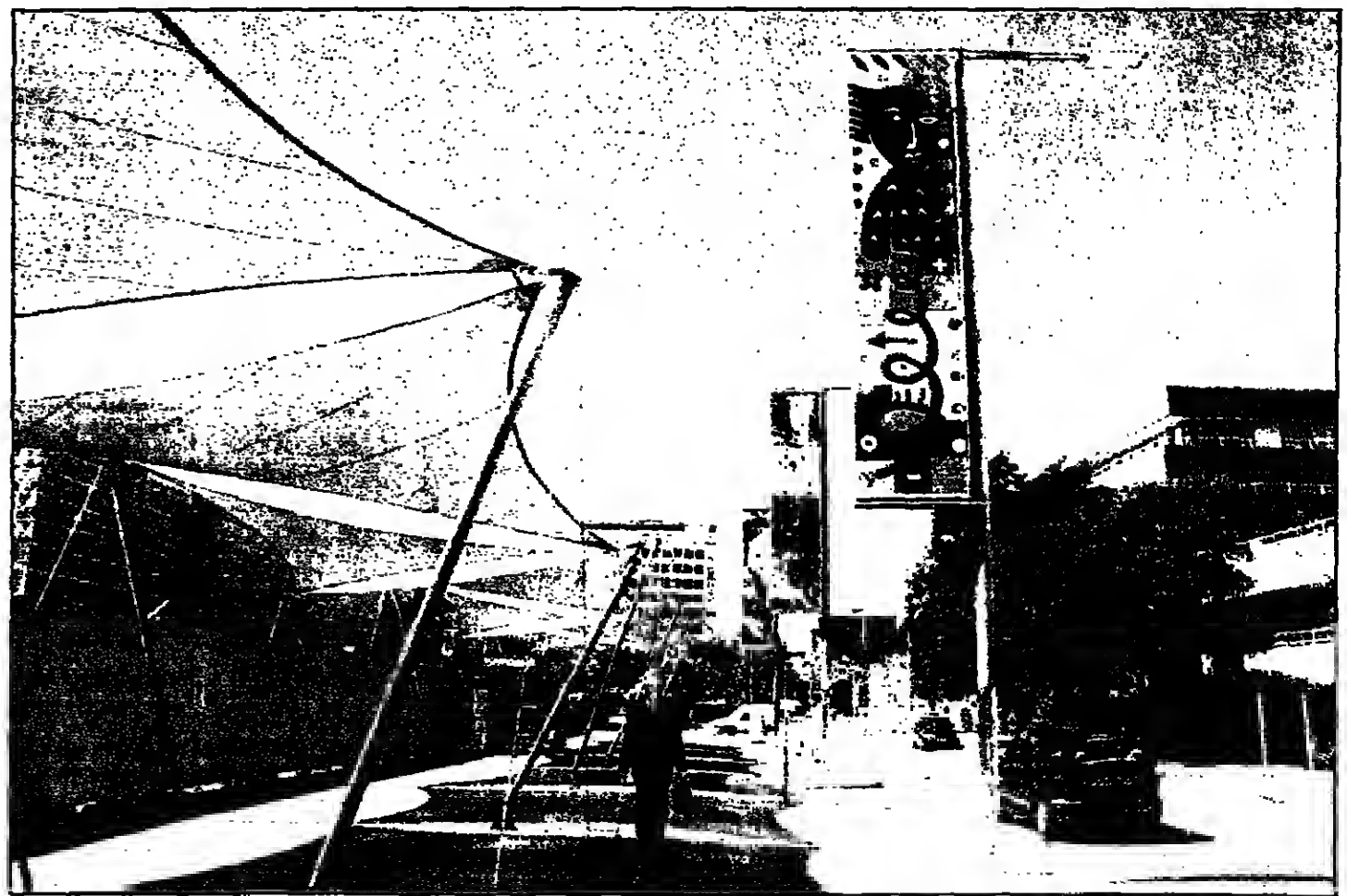
In truth it is not a square, but Waterloo Place in front of the Viceroy House, a handsome 19th-century building with a flourish or two on its facade, has just been given the go-ahead for pedestrianisation by Lambeth Council's London traffic planning department. That puts it leagues ahead of Norman Foster's scheme for Parliament Square, which was turned down by Westminster Council.

The stream of taxis arriving at Waterloo will have to turn back on themselves in a big loop at the drop-off point. Walks along Waterloo Bridge into the big, open Southwark underpass are just waiting for some public art to grace the brick walls. Shops and restaurants will open in its vaulted arches. "Neglect the big areas to wait for the big picture to emerge and property prices spiral downwards," says architect Alex Lifschutz, who is realistic about these retail opportunities.

The firm Lifschutz Davidson came up with the proposals for a well designed public square outside Waterloo after the South Bank Employers' Group commissioned Llewelyn Davies in 1993 to produce an urban design strategy for the entire South Bank area. The centre-piece of their recommendations was the provision of ground-level pedestrian routes to and from Waterloo Station.

Now the scheme links up with Charing Cross and the Strand on the north bank of the Thames via the new Hungerford Bridge. It will also connect directly to the transformed spine route of Upper Ground.

"The design of Waterloo Place is intended to encourage people who



Architects Lifschutz and Davidson devised new street furniture for Waterloo's pedestrian area

Main picture and above by Kalpesh Lathigra

use the station to explore the neighbourhood," says Mr Lifschutz. "People will walk directly from Victory Arch on to a lively new public square."

To help them get off their bikes, Mr Lincoln has made a series of posters declaring, "Walk – it's nearer than you think", and giving us the time it takes on foot to reach vari-

ous destinations along the route. He cannot wait for Mr Foster's Millennium Bridge to span the Thames so that he can time a stroll across it from St Paul's to the new Tate at Bankside. Ten minutes, say? "Maybe 20." He looks speculatively across the Thames.

The area will never be car-free but the emphasis is on public transport

and the next phase will be the development of the eco-bus to create a low-emission service linking Covent Garden with the South Bank, Bankside, London Bridge and the Tower of London.

Four central London boroughs, London Transport and Government Office for London are working with the Cross Rivers partnership to

make this more than a tourist bus to the South Bank arts centre. It will call in at St Thomas' Hospital and Guy's as well.

Never far behind the businessman's proposals is the remainder of the community who live in the area – only 6,000 of them – which is just now beginning to feel like a real neighbourhood.

Edinburgh: a survivor's guide

The world's
biggest arts
festival is no
picnic. Veteran

**David
Benedict**
offers advice

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the orgy. Yes, it's festival time, folks. Once again, the denizens of Edinburgh open their doors to the world's largest arts jamboree and, as usual, it's bigger than ever.

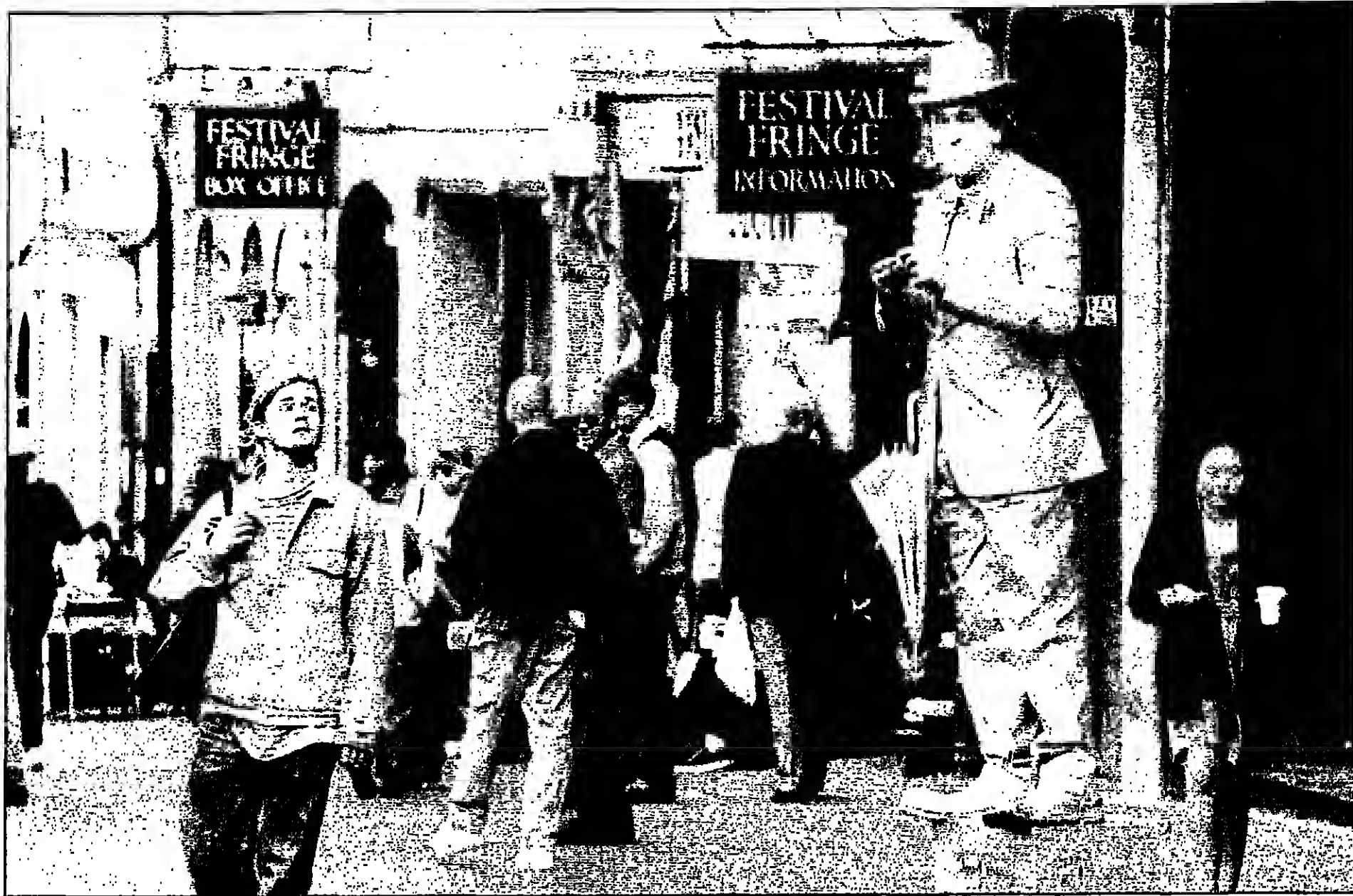
All over the sternly beautiful city you'll find everyone from students to stars performing in everything from 3,000-seat venues to spaces the size of an awkwardly appointed cupboard. It's time to pack that rucksack and head off for a teeming banquet of theatre, comedy, opera, film, dance, pop, literature and exhibitions.

This year, for reasons best known to themselves, the International Festival and the Fringe have slightly parted company. The glamorous orchestras and upmarket international companies kick off on Sunday 16 but the fringe is already under way in what is known as Week Zero.

That means there's five weeks' worth of entertainment on offer. You'd have to be certifiably insane to stay for the whole shebang, but even a flying weekend visit offers treats and traps aplenty. No matter how long your visit, the following advice should help you emerge smiling from this exotic jungle.

Just Say No

There is more on display than you would imagine possible. Everywhere you walk, you will be assaulted by eager actors and artists determined to lure you to everything from 'An entirely new and vital physical realisation of *Titus Andronicus* with real meat pies' to *The Life*



There is no time to stand and stare...so put on a good pair of walking shoes, wear a watch, adopt an Edinburgh accent and enjoy the festival

Geraint Lewis

of *Sylvia Plath*. Accept all the leaflets and you will collapse under the weight.

Do your homework

I know it is the size of a telephone directory, but read the *Fringe Guide* in advance. Likewise the International Festival Guide. Big name shows and past Edinburgh legends will sell out fast, so book early. Anything at the Traverse or the Assembly Rooms is a guaranteed hot ticket. Elsewhere, check the small print. When a company

quotes a review saying "the hottest show this year" they may have lifted it from the *Middlesbrough Shopper*.

Adopt an Edinburgh accent. Alternatively, have a T-shirt printed, emblazoned with the legend "Leave Me Alone, I Live Here". Both wheezes tend to stop lousy clowns miming at you in the street.

Line the stomach. Bearing in mind that Edinburgh affords the delightful op-

portunity of all-day drinking, this should be done early. Haggis is a boon in this department. This means that you do not have to do last-minute quaffing of vast amounts at 10.50pm - but beware of long-term alcohol poisoning.

Take sensible footwear. Edinburgh is fairly compact but you will be amazed at how much time is spent tramping across town from venue to venue. Your Manolo Blahniks may look divine but they are not

built for hill-walking, and Edinburgh is not flat.

Take a watch. Shows are on from the early morning to the wee small hours and timing is essential if you want to catch more than the occasional performance. Anyone working to a tight schedule should consider a spot of circuit training.

Wax your ears regularly. This has less to do with personal hygiene and more to do with picking up the gossip. Everyone is there for the same reason, so they sit around and yak about what they've seen and what to avoid. All the reviews in the world don't compare with word of mouth. The *Right Size*, last year's sensation, did 10 minutes from their show *Do you Come Here Often?* and everyone immediately told everyone else. Tickets simply disappeared.

Take plenty of dough. You will inevitably wind up seeing more than you planned to (a good thing, but even with low ticket prices, it all mounts up). And then you have to eat. And drink.

Don't go for the record of shows seen. A bunch of schmucks always insists on going for the record but don't be one of them. The winners are invariably theatrical anoraks who have aimed for quantity not quality. What shall

it profit a man if he shall gain umpteen stand-ups, seven cutting-edge re-creations of the trials of Oscar Wilde and 55 student revues - if he loses his mind?

You can miss comedy heroes. It's not imperative that you see the comedy headlines: they will all tour the country with their new material in the autumn.

Book decent accommodation. Sleeping on someone's floor is fine for one night, but living in close confinement with people as tired, sweaty and drunk as you are pales after a (very short) time.

Look out for 'Best Of...' nights. These enable you to sample several comics in one go before shelling out for someone who looks good on paper and turns out to be another pimply youth doing observational "Have you ever noticed..." drivel.

Rush for the Perrier. The big-noise Perrier awards are hyped to the skies and publication of the short-list provokes a rush on the box office. If stand-up is your bag, be quick off the mark.

Pick up on freebies. Look out for free ticket offers in *The Independent*. You have nothing to lose (except maybe an hour of your life) and everything to gain.

Review the reviewers. Anyone who can hold a pen or stab at a keyboard is drafted in to pronounce upon the merits of the thousands of productions (literally) which appear every year. Some commentators are, thus, to be taken with a sack of salt. It goes without saying that members of your trusty *Independent* team are peerless in their sagacity and perspicacity.

Mingle, mingle, mingle... One of the festival's greatest pleasures is the atmosphere. Virtually everyone you meet is doing exactly what you are: seeing stuff and having fun all day long, which makes for easy and instant friendships across age, gender and everything else.

Soak it all up at the fun and friendly Traverse Theatre bar or the slightly more manic Assembly Rooms. Hang around the Pleasance or The Gilded Balloon. Performers with a masochistic bent could even try the mad Fringe Club.

Be bold. Loads of shows are cheap and short. You are not investing an entire evening after a hard day, so sample stuff that's out of the your usual sphere. Take yourself off to an early morning concert or check out a premiere at the Edinburgh Filmhouse. Right in front of you there is a whole world of entertainment you would never normally consider seeing. Why not risk it?

CAMPAIGN TACTICS

Take these tips from other old hands on making the best of the Edinburgh Festival:



Arthur Smith, comedian and writer
Don't eat anything except cheese rolls brought from strange men in the Pleasance courtyard. Book into a monastery one night a week. Take yoghurt in the event of thrush.



Adam Bloom, comedian
I survive by talking about myself and going to see loads of shows and not drinking alcohol as a way to go to sleep. You can have fun without being pissed. Dive in head first and go with it.



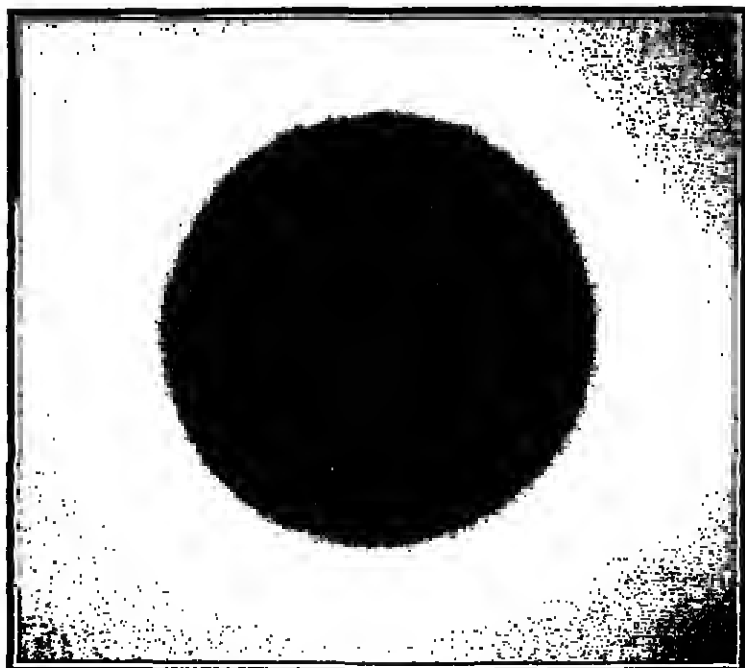
Dr Haze, Ringmaster, Circus of Horrors
Last time we were in Edinburgh we went for the drink option. Also, I can gouge out people's hearts during the show, and that gives me nourishment.



Dave Gorman, 'Mrs Merton' writer, comedian
Last year I was permanently tipsy, so I never got a bangover. I am not recommending it as a lifestyle choice. But I don't see any other option when you're here.

THIS WEEK IN THE SEVEN-SECTION

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



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The best of what to see and hear

THEATRE

Caligula

In a radical production of Camus's play, the horse-warrior directs himself during an existential crisis via an onstage cameraman and video screens.

Playhouse (2-3 Sept) (0131 473 2000)

Phèdre

Acclaimed Festival veteran Luc Bondy directs Racine's tragedy.

King's Theatre (2-3 Sept) (0131 473 2000)

Mr Puntilla And His Man Matti

The *Right Size* took last year's Festival by storm, and were scandalously ignored by the Perrier panel. This year they're back in a co-production with the Almeida Theatre of Brecht's most highly-regarded comedy.

Traverse (7-31 Aug) (0131 228 1404)

CINEMA

Velvet Goldmine

The opening movie of the film festival (on the 16th). Todd Haynes's glam-rock epic, starring Ewan McGregor and Eddie Izzard, is a euphoric roller-coaster ride.

Made in Britain/The Firm

In stark contrast to the glitz of *Velvet Goldmine*, the late Alan Clarke's retrospective is a powerful reminder of his challenging work.

The Book of Life

Can Hal Hartley return in the sublime film-making that made his name (*The Unbelievable Truth*, *Trust*) after the excruciating pretension of 1996's *Flirt*?

Information hotline: 0131-229 2550

COMEDY

Jason Byrne: Camping on the Moon

Anarchic improv and adrenalin-fuelled sketches from Ireland's hottest new comedian.

Pleasance Cavern (5-31 Aug)

Paul Merton: And This Is Me

The poker-faced under-manager of comedy returns to stand-up for the first time in a decade.

Pleasance (23-31 Aug)

Mandy Knight: I Might Be Single - But The Voices Keep Me Company

An hour of virtuoso tragic-comedy and audience participation.

Pleasance Upstairs (7-31 Aug)
All bookings: 0131-556 6550

MUSIC

John Zorn

In his first UK appearance for 10 years, the avant-garde boundary-distorting maverick brings together some of New York's best performers.

Aug 28, Queen's Hall

Roddy Frame

A long-awaited return for the songwriting talent behind Aztec Camera.

Aug 20, Jaffa Cafe

Both part of the Flux Festival (Tickets 0131-667 7776)

Jackie Clune

After the success of last year's "Crick With A Flick", Clune returns with her outrageously arch showbiz cabaret. Dusty, Sandy and Cilla rolled into one...

Assembly Rooms (0131-226 2428)

Dalibor

Richard Armstrong conducts the premiere of a new production of Smetana's *Bornage* to the Czech nation, directed by David Fountney.

3, 5 Sept, Edinburgh Festival Theatre (0131-473 2000)

John Zorn 15.50

The return of the rap pack

"I just make stuff that the average person can relate to," explains Master P, who is now so busy that he has stopped making records himself. "It's not about specific 'hoods, which is what so many other rappers have done. It's universal, 'cause I've seen life from both sides.



Record companies may have established committees to vet their rappers for lyrical content, but they have found it hard to balance social responsibility with record sales - especially when the DMX and his kin match the popular taste. Moreover, if rap once struggled

RIFFS

THE FIRST AND LAST RECORDS BOUGHT BY MICA PARIS

It's good to hear: the voice is such a precious instrument that there shouldn't be too many things hammering it down. The age may be coming when there is a marriage between real voices and real music. I listen to this indoors in a quiet time after cooking; the dishwasher is on and I gaze out the window and think about life.



THE CHARTS

TOP 10 UK SINGLES

- | | TITLE & ARTIST |
|----|---|
| 1 | Viva Forever
Spice Girls |
| 2 | Come With Me
Puff Daddy/Jimmy Page |
| 3 | Ghetto Supastar
Pras Michel/ODB/MYA |
| 4 | Lost In Space
ApolloFourForty |
| 5 | Life Is A Flower
Ace of Base |
| 6 | Freak Me
Another Level |
| 7 | I Can't Help Myself
Lucid |
| 8 | Just The Two Of Us
Will Smith |
| 9 | Deeper Underground
Jamiroquai |
| 10 | Save Tonight
Eagle-Eye Cherry |

TOP 10 UK ALBUMS

- | | TITLE & ARTIST |
|----|--|
| 1 | Jane McDonald
Jane McDonald |
| 2 | Talk On Corners
The Corrs |
| 3 | International Velvet
Catatoria |
| 4 | Postcards From Heaven
Lighthouse Family |
| 5 | Desireless
Eagle-Eyed Cherry |
| 6 | Let's Talk About Love
Celine Dion |
| 7 | Life Thru A Lens
Robbie Williams |
| 8 | Version 2.0
Gabrage |
| 9 | Hello Nasty
Beastie Boys |
| 10 | Blue
Simply Red |

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LISTINGS ON PAGES 17&18

**INTERVIEW BY
NIFER RODGER**



The Mediaeval Baebes may be white witches, but they are simply wicked on stage

Tony Buckingham

Baebes have got it maede

I AM not going to be rude at all. I don't want to be rude about the Mediaeval Baebes, primarily because I value my health and everyone of these girls is, apparently, a witch. Oh, they say they are white witches, and it's all done in the best possible taste, but can you count on that? Secondly, I don't want to be rude because the Baebes don't deserve it.

Twelve feisty chicks, they sing songs from the swingin' 1360s while trussed up in see-through drapes, but this kind of schtick isn't new - we already have Vanessa Mae and a host of PVC-clad opera singers - and they probably know it. Signed to

Spice Girls label Virgin (hah!), they would be easy to dismiss as a marketing ploy: their number includes a stripper, a go-go dancer, a welder and a systems analyst, and they come out with a wash such as "I like wearing ivy and nothing else" and "I design spaceships. That's what space pixies do". Add to this the fact that founder member Katherine Blake also formed goth daffies Miranda Sex Garden, and you are definitely working with one hand or two. If you prefer tied behind your back.

On the other hand, this could all be tongue-in-cheek irony, because the Baebes have brains, and they do what

POP
MEDIAEVAL BARBES
JAZZ CAFE
LONDON

they do remarkably. When they arrive on stage - where the mikes are growing plastic ivy - their presence seems to fill the air with something oddly arcane. They are like novices loosed from a convent and given a crate of Grotts. 12 unpredictable Ophelias gone to the bad, bohemian and startlingly good-looking. Then they open their mouths and begin to resonate, and it is truly scary.

"Kinderly" is a wild roundel with a vicious, booming bodhran that chills the blood; then, like an echo of Palestrina's unworried, unaccompanied vocal beauty, "Now Sprunges the Spray" fills the room with its Chaucerian words. It's hard to believe that only one of the group has musical training: breathing and pronunciation are perfect. And, cerise, too. A plainsong tale of lovesickness so deep "that sleep I ne may", it holds everyone in a hypnotic trance, and the hairs stand up shivering on your neck. "Adam lay I bounden" brings in, gradually, flute, tambourine and a drum that sets up a slow, unearthly

rhythm, as threatening as anything from *Carmina Burana*. Occasionally the tone has an awkward nasal glitch and what they're doing seems pompous and silly - but not that often. Toward the end, they give us "Summerise", the 13th century number to which someone is burned alive in the film *The Wicker Man*. Go, girls! By now, they look both relaxed and possessed, sweeping the audience with their piercing gaze. Coming soon to a sacrificial rite near you.

GLEN BROWN

This article appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

A step up on the staircase to stadiums

ELECTRICITY SIZZLING on stage, the bass guitar at full throttle, the bar unreachable, the toilets a nightmare. That is a gig. A concert, on the other hand, has the smell of washed hair, a comfy seat and the Range Rover in the car park. Dingwalls, in Camden, falls between the two.

Since The Monarch and The Falcon pubs began hosting new hands, it is no longer London's main experimental venue and its bright decor and credit card hotline are concessions to concert ambience. Nevertheless, it is a strange choice of venue for a band who have had hits all over the world.

It is almost two years since Alisha's Attic's acclaimed debut album and a catchy, neurotic chorus with "I Am, I Feel". Four Top 20 singles later and the female songwriting duo with weird lyrics had only to break America to get the same frenzied accolades as Alanis Morissette. The Dagenham sisters get as far as Japan. In comes Dingwalls. This is an early showing of the second album, and the stadium concert is still in sight.

Alisha's Attic have ditched old-hand producer Dave Stewart (half of Eurythmics and architect of Shakespeare's Sister) for cutting-edge New Yorker Mark Plati (David Bowie, Dee Lite and Junior Vasquez).

Barefoot dancing, exotic attire and other ephemera of Morissette-mania are gone. Which means nothing distracts from their unique vocals. Alisha's Attic aim to fall between the same stools as Dingwalls: different, yet commercially viable.

On this showing the fall is an unfortunate accident. The thirty-somethings in the audience, passive and slack-jawed, look as though they have not been to a

POP

ALISHA'S ATTIC
DINGWALLS, CAMDEN,
LONDON



Alisha's Attic: weird lyrics

concert in 10 years, never mind a gig (unless old faves, perhaps Terry Hall or Edwyn Collins). It is a tough crowd to play, especially to introduce new material. Nevertheless, at the end of each song they cheered as die-hard fans, even dancing to the original hits.

But the sound was poor, the backing band faceless and the atmosphere lacklustre. And when Karen said the beat was melting her make-up, it was clear that Alisha's Attic weren't suited to gig dynamics.

Which is a shame, because Alisha's Attic are perfect Sunday morning music, to relax to or listen to while vacuuming. Ronnie Scott's tables and atmospheric lighting would be a better venue.

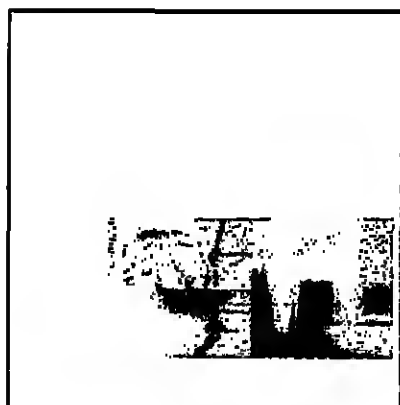
Failing that, they should engage a few high-energy covers, keep the hits and be a great wedding band.

On the evidence of this gig, they may be available.

JENNIFER RODGER

THIS WEEK'S ALBUM RELEASES

REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL



ESTHERO
Breath From Another
(Columbia World WGR 439716 2)

THE EVER-WIDENING ripples of trip-hop continue to spread out across the world, long after the genre's Bristol-based pioneers lost the impetus that made the first Tricky and Portishead albums landmarks of the last decade's musical landscape. Esthero are from Toronto, and they sound like Canada's Sneaker Pimps. Morcheeba and Olive rolled into one on their debut album *Breath From Another*. A pleasant enough prospect, though the group's main strength - epitomised 19-year-old singer Esthero's warm, jazzy vocals - submerges somewhat as the album progresses.

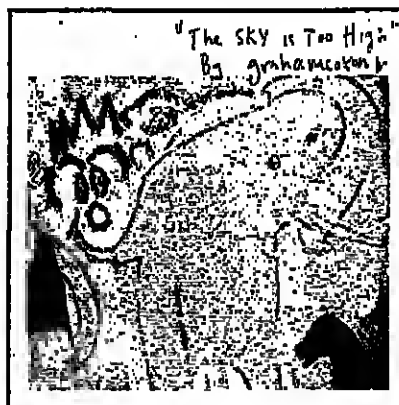
Esthero's partner in Esthero (so to speak) is Martin McKinney, aka Doc, who has an easy grasp of modern dance styles. McKinney clearly has a liking for jazz blends, which is fine on slinky jazz-hop grooves like "Anyways" and "Country Living", but prey to needless clutter when vibes, strings and horns are piled one on top of another for "Lounge", whose title should serve as a warning. But when Esthero herself is given her head, as on the obvious single "That Girl", the result is light and languid, gossamer pop bliss.



RINGO STARR
Vertical Man
(Mercury 556 598 2)

Vertical Man is testament to the enduring personal appeal of Ringo: though star-studded rubbish for the most part, it's difficult to be too hard about, the way one might if one were dealing with a McCartney or Harrison album. It's partly a matter of expectations, and partly one of ambition - in general, it's rather more successful when Ringo's not trying too hard to impress, as he does when machine-gunning phrases, Dylan-style ("E-mail jump hail man becomes a female"), to ponder the pressures of modern life in "Mindfield".

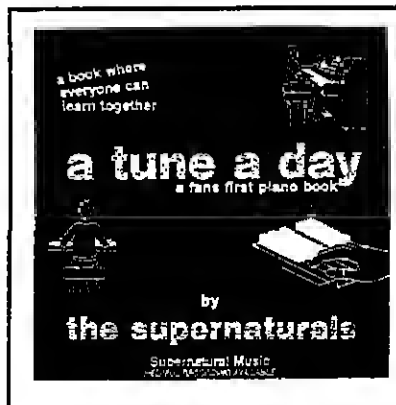
Celebrity names litter the credits, from Macca and George to Alanis and Petty: with the best contributions coming from Aerosmith's Steven Tyler and Steve Cropper. The cast-list swells to include virtually everyone in the same postal district as Ringo on the choruses of "La De Da", an obvious hit single which has the dumb appeal of "Que Sera Sera"; it's here, and in "I'll Be Fine Anywhere", that one encounters the archetypal Ringo - there's a bloke-ish complacency about both tracks, and he sounds as though the straw boater is set at a suitably jaunty angle.



GRAHAM COXON
The Sky Is Too High
(Transcopic TRANCD5)

Beware guitarists bearing solo albums - particularly if, like Blur's Graham Coxon, they have a penchant for the lo-fi scrabbings of American indie bands like Pavement. *The Sky Is Too High* finds Coxon eschewing the craft and melodic appeal of his day-job for a series of wilful wallowings in shamateuristic self-pity which, crucially, lack conviction. It's as if, overtly impressed by the introspection of such as Elliott Smith, he's decided to do something similar himself, despite the glaring lack of anything like as interesting an interior life.

The result is a listless parade of mope-rock, mostly comprised of grim acoustic strummings and artless mockney mumbblings, with the occasional burst of distorted punk guitar (to show us the intensity of Graham's misery) and, at the end, a condescendingly fake country blues. The poor-pitiful-me approach reaches some kind of apogee with "I Wish", in which the sheer egotism behind Coxon's sufferings is revealed through lines like: "I wish the rain would just leave me alone/I can't wear that/Stupid rain-hat". It left me wondering: Is he taking the mickey here?



THE SUPERNATURALS
A Tune A Day
(Food 496 0662)

FOR ALL ITS energy and well-crafted harmonies, *The Supernaturals* follow-up to their 1996 debut sounds rather weak and enervated, the inevitable consequence of continuing to subscribe to the Britpop formula after the genre's appeal has curdled.

Both lyrically and musically, they cast around wildly for ideas, seeking inspiration in various retro pop forms - wannabe Beach Boys harmonies ("VW Song"), early Joy Division pulses ("Let Me Know"), Spiders From Mars panache ("Idiot") - but there's barely a line or a tune in the entire 14 tracks that has the conviction to hold one's attention. There's a misplaced interest, too, in the dreary details of life - supermarkets, road drills, plant pots, hunger bars, nail clippings - which fail to resonate in the way intended. And though they may open the album claiming "You Take Yourself Too Seriously", there's precious little humour to be found in tracks like the whimsical "Submarine Song", the graceless "Country Music" and especially the parodic pomp-rock of "Everest", which merely demonstrates facility without taste.



SINEAD LOHAN
No Mermaid
(Grapevine GRACD239)

FOR HER second album, Sinead Lohan has visited the New Orleans studio of Malcolm Burn, who's made a full-time career out of the kind of productions associated with his former mentor Daniel Lanois. Accordingly, *No Mermaid* resonates with atmospheres beyond the reach of her debut *Who Do You Think I Am*, as Burn teases out the appropriate ambience for each song.

Lohan favours this kind of elemental metaphor - elsewhere, she sings of storms breaking, of catching lightning, of diving deep, of swimming into calmer waters, of approaching harbours - though at times, one gets the impression that the surface lustre which Burns applies is disguising essentially meaningless lyrics, such is her impressionistic, non-narrative style. But when the two are in balance, the effect can be quite magical, as when distant organ and acoustic guitar impart a churchy *Twin Peaks* feel to "What Can Never Be", or groaning harmonium casts a dusty pall of melancholy over the broken-hearted "Loose Ends".

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LYRIC SHEETS

THE DEATH OF KEITH MOON

Keith Moon of *The Who*, madcap and probably the best rock drummer ever, died 20 years ago this year. An in-depth book about him, *Dear Boy*, is due out in September.

I remember when he died because
The headline read:
Keith Moon is Tot
And I came home from Germany
That autumn on my own
Across Westphalian countryside
The train I'd boarded trundled on
Through little towns and cabbage fields
And I had time to think:

I'd seen him several years before
One cold October on TV
I must have been thirteen or so
His band were in the charts
And what I noticed most of all
About this madman drummer was

The sheer defiant joy with which
He beat his kit on 'I'm A Boy'
Hammering the hanging toms
Smashing seven colours
From the see-thru snare.
And all the time
Open mouthed with pilled-up eyes
He gurned and gestured
From the screen
While cymbals on the taut refrains
Sizzled like electric trains
A floor-tom like an oil tin
Brought the second chorus in.

I remember when he died because
The headline said
Keith Moon was dead.
And I came home from Germany
That autumn on my own.

MARTIN NEWELL

SLEEVE NOTES

From 29 August, Ant and Dec's *SMTV//Live* will replace *The Chart Show*. It's bad news for the older music lover who used Saturday morning's *Chart Show* to brush up on essential popular culture. The good news, however, is the lively northern duo plan to continue part of *The Chart Show*'s unique features, with an hour of new and alternative music in the same time slot.

Mention of the older generation brings to mind news of The Boss. Bruce Springsteen is about to release a new single, announced in an easy-to-miss back-cover ad in *Billboard* last month. A six-CD box set

of unreleased material and an album "is clearly in the pipeline," reports *Backstreets* magazine, the Bruce bible. Known for his prolific writing, Springsteen has penned and recorded hundreds of songs that have never appeared on his studio releases.

REM are set to enter a Bill-Berry-less era, with the release of an 11th album and the first without the former drummer who quit last year. "The new record is kinda out there," said Peter Buck, REM guitarist in a internet chat room. The album is slated to feature a modern twist with a number of ambient tracks. In addition to experimenting with percussive instruments

and offbeat sounds in the studio, members of the Atlanta Symphony were brought in to add strings to a few tracks.

It has been confirmed that George Michael's long-awaited *Troyan Souls* project will eventually be released. The project began in 1991 and has had Michael recording new songs with artists such as Aretha Franklin, but progress was halted by Michael's legal problems with Sony. The singer's cousin Andreas Georgiou has said recording is 50 per cent complete and the album should appear "early in the next millennium".

JENNIFER RODGER

Joe 11/15/50

هكذا من الامل

How to blow your own hypertrumpet

MICHAEL-CHURCH



This year, Dartington summer school celebrates its 50th anniversary. Time to go back to see what makes it tick

Two summers ago, to see what I was musically made of, I enrolled as a student at Dartington, and these were my findings: a terrible pianist, with a singing voice in ruins. Moreover, the first of these discoveries was traumatic. Budding virtuosi are an unforgiving breed, and to crash in flames under the beady gaze of a roomful of such folk is not good for one's *amour propre*. But I still succumbed to the spell of the place, which seemed to dissolve all barriers between amateurs and professionals, and where a wonderful misanthrope of music was in the air. This year Dartington summer school celebrates its 50th anniversary. Time to go back, to see what makes it tick.

History has a lot to do with it, as has the sheer beauty of this bosky Devon manor which a pair of rich American visionaries called Leonard and Dorothy Elmhirst bought in the Twenties, welcoming artists from all over Europe. Their educational thrust came from the German pianist, Artur Schnabel, who brought to the Elmhirsts his idea for a school. From the Jewish musicians who flocked there in the Thirties, to the Serbs and Croats who mingle there now, Dartington has always attracted refugees.

Thus did Dartington come to inject Continental energy into the somewhat British music scene, and it has remained at the forefront. As its current director, Gavin Henderson, is at pains to point out, the goal is not mere talent-spotting. However, an extraordinary amount of talent has been spotted there. One class contained Peter Maxwell Davies, Harrison Birtwistle and Richard Rodney Ben-

nett; Jacqueline du Pré was the table tennis ace of her year. Hindemith, Britten, Poulenc and Stravinsky taught there; conductors of the choir have included Andrew Davis, Mark Elder and John Eliot Gardiner, and the 13-year-old Simon Rattle came here as a fledgling conductor.

This year I hear the school before I see it, medieval German "tower music", composed to be played from rooftops at moments of terror or triumph, emanates from a posse of trumpeters on Dartington tower. And this year's keynote - the mingling of musics from East and West - is to be found all over. While the flamenco tutor extracts an Andalusian thum from his Asian pupils, the oud spe-



Dartington College, a magnet for musicians from all over the world

Tim Cuff

cialist tries to make his English students sing in quarter-tones.

In one room an intense circle of women are reviving Hildegard of Bingen; in the next room a cross-legged group intone rag scales. "For a year of my training," says their tutor, "I was made to sing just one single note, but it was enough. If you get caught up in the intricacies of music, you can't focus on your body." This goes down well with her students, who are all in a beatific trance.

In the general throng four young Indians in immaculate dark suits stand out as inseparable: a string quartet brought from a Calcutta orphanage by an English patron who hovers round them like a hen. "Jesus Careth For You," proclaims the day-glo sticker on one boy's violin case, though he turns out to be Muslim. Their Haydn and Mozart has a discernibly Asian "slide", but their Tagore songs (for which the second violinist moves to the tabla) are charm incarnate.

And there are more inseparable figures. Two identically petite Polish twins whirl through Paderewski duets on a piano which that pianist/prime minister bequeathed to the school. And one is constantly aware of four English schoolgirls - including another pair of twins - who follow their mother like ducklings and are ferociously good on period instruments. They too are a string quartet, who have earned their Dartington fees by busking in the street.

If it is sweetly old-fashioned, others are pushing avant-garde to the limit. A composer and gardener are turning a Max Ernst graphic novel into a series of mini-operas, which they plan to put out on the Internet.

"A separate opera for every page. That means 149 operas, some just five seconds long, others a minute and a half. Freaky or what?"

I watch Jonathan Impett play his hypertrumpet, extracting a weird variety of synaesthetic sounds - in addition to acoustic ones - by scooping and jabbing the air with his instrument. It is equipped with sensors for pressure, inclination, position and acceleration, so presumably even I

could make some kind of mad music out of it. If I wanted to. But what is this? A lady playing the cello with two bows? "This is not a trick," insists Frances-Marie Uitti. "It's a way of extending the polyphonic possibilities of a basically melodic instrument. You can orchestrate it. Nobody else in the world uses this technique." Not yet, anyway. "I've had many requests to teach it, but I won't do that till my book is published. Then it will belong to everyone." Moreover she, like Impett, is about to go on stage and improvise with a plethora of electronic aids. "It's a huge experiment," she says. "We don't know what we're going to get." I watch with admiration as she juggles, but when it's over I'm not sure what we got.

We're on firmer ground with cellist Philip Sheppard, whose instrument consists of a fingerboard without a belly. But this really is some

fingerboard, custom-made from a 200-year-old piece of maple and equipped with a battery of sensors, it feeds its sound through a synthesiser which allows him to do instantly beguiling things. With a single bow stroke he can evoke a marimba or a sitar and tabla plus the cello's natural sound; he's contemptuous of his synthesiser's built-in rock effects and is creating new ones to replace them. His long-term goal, by attaching syllables to notes, is literally to make his instrument talk, which would transform his accompaniment of silent films.

"I'm basically a Luddite," he explains, "but I do jazz improvisations, and it didn't feel honest to be pushing an acoustic cello in directions it wasn't built for. The basic problem is the chocolate fatness of its normal sound, which puts you into a character before you've started. I like to start with a blank canvas. I want to get back to the snow in music."

There is also a ghost at this feast, in the form of the Hackney Youth Orchestra, which has come to Dartington every year since 1992: ordinary inner-city teenagers with an inspirational teacher, but needing financial help for such a jaunt. Henderson regards their absence this year as an indication of local authority priorities.

Help, however, may be at hand. Henderson has just been appointed chairman of Chris Smith's new Youth Music Trust. And Hackney's dilemma, he says, is exactly the kind of thing the trust should be addressing. Its £10m per annum will be spent "helping people do things they would otherwise not be able to dream of doing". Which brings us back to the real world with a vengeance.

The warmth of a Scottish winter evening

THE PROMS
LISA MILNE,
BBC SCOTTISH
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA
ROYAL ALBERT HALL

A SIGNIFICANT musical voice hailed from North of the Border at Sunday night's Prom when Thea Musgrave's *Songs for a Winter's Evening* - commissioned to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Robert Burns' death - received its London premiere.

Musgrave has herself reflected "how rich, even in the late 20th cent., we hear a song cycle about 'a created by a woman'... to hear soprano Lisa Milne conjure 'a shrill and frosty wind', backed by a strongly motivated BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Osmo Vanska, was to venture far beyond the issue of gender. Musgrave's style weaves filigree detail among strong thematic ideas, tending the mood in the first song from unease to anguish, then sailing us to warmer climes for 'Summer's pleasant times'.

The "story-line", such as it is, traces the complex blossoming of a young girl's dawning sexuality, delicately shaded by Musgrave, with lashings of

colour and a lone percussionist doing the rounds without as much as touching the timps. The third song, a breezy dance movement, features nifty work from the piccolo: you could sense the audience wanted to applaud, but perhaps they felt it inappropriate to do so.

Musgrave's winter girl followed Sibelius's ocean nymphs, the lean, dream-like spectres of *The Oceanides*, mostly quiet but with a Teplola-like climax near the end. Vanska keeps Sibelius poised on a nerve's edge, charging the mood with real electricity, and a refreshing change from the sloppy "atmosphere-without-precision" approach favoured by certain of his forebears. Elgar's second *Wand of Youth Suite*

isn't too far removed from Sibelius's own incidental music, though the cheeky little march that opens the Suite and the bracing "Wild Bears" that close it are fairly characteristic.

Beethoven's Seventh Symphony closed the programme, and what a performance it was. Like Sir Roger Norrington a week or so earlier, Vanska opts for a "classical" orchestral layout, so that when the two violin desks indulge in furious backchat towards the end of the symphony, you actually hear them answering each other. The first movement's sustained introduction was powerfully stated, its "rum-ta-tum" vivace delightfully buoyant, and the scherzo tore off at a hell of a lick (even the hymn-like trio section was far faster than usual). The Scottish fiddles did their best to keep up the pace, but even when they didn't - which wasn't very often - the sense of excitement was so great that no one would have bothered.

ROB COWAN

Davis plugs himself in

ON THE AIR
ROBERT MAYCOCK

AS RADIO 3 settles into a "Proms-everywhere" groove, it's a good moment to check out the further reaches of classical broadcasting. Radio 2 has sprung a surprise. Carl Davis Classics is, at face value, the latest in an ancient Home Service time: celebrity presents cosy hour of favourite snippets. But there are some odd things about it.

Take the timing: 7pm on Tuesdays. Not only has it escaped from mid Sunday evening, where you and other survivors of the genre like *Your Hundred Best Tunes*. This is prime time, in competition with the drive-time and homecoming strands of Classic FM and the BBC's own Radio 3. Another of its distinctive features is that the celebrity isn't the usual amateur fan, but an accomplished musician.

The result is that rare thing: a musically coherent line-up. It was at this week's centre, with a sequence of Respighi, Vivaldi, Verdi and Rossini. Less than obvious playlist material appeared, including a Schubert song and a Handel organ concerto, and warhorses turned up in distinctive versions - Jorge Bolet's

quirky way with the Chopin *Minute Waltz*, and Jascha Heifetz playing his violin arrangement of "Summertime" from *Porgy and Bess*.

Davis was up-front about his film interests and wasn't one to turn down the chance of playing some of his music. Proper English presenters would think of it as vulgar self-promotion, though they usually make sure somebody else gives them a plug. I admire the honesty. No doubt he gets a few sneers, but he also had the confidence to follow his own *Phantom of the Opera* score with a masterpiece of the genre by Nino Rota.

Porgy and Bess in its original form was all over Radio 3 and the BBC's printed media. Good to have a talk that asked whether the opera demeans the community it features. The current *Radio Times* twice calls *Porgy* a folk opera, as though it had sprung directly from the grass roots with never a Gershwin in sight. This newspaper's review said that Ira and George "easily assimilated the legacy of an entire musical culture". As someone who has struggled for half a century to assimilate my own musical

culture in a fraction of its entirety, I gasp.

According to *The Guardian*, the conductor Wayne Marshall "brought out just how deeply Gershwin had immersed himself in black musical culture". Just how Marshall did so was not specified. I'd buy the view of Cynthia Haymon, who has regularly starred in the show. In a *BBC Music Magazine* interview she says: "There's a lot of unhealthiness around it, so it's not the easiest thing to commit yourself. It would be wonderful if there were another opera that was as easy to listen to, that presented a more positive aspect, and it would be fantastic if that opera came from the same community as the people who are on the stage."

It would be even more fantastic if we saw the same people in an opera that isn't about that community. Even Wayne Marshall has had to make his way with a little help from Gershwin, the classical world's proxy black composer. Institutional racism in music is a hotter topic than the history of *Porgy*, so maybe Radio 2 will give it some space.

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Charlie and the Enforcer

Lord Falconer goes from courtroom to Cabinet. By John-Paul Flintoff

LORD FALCONER of Thornton QC, the new Minister of State, is half an hour late. He has just moved to the Cabinet Office to work as Minister without Portfolio alongside the "enforcer" Jack Cunningham, and this morning he appears to have lost himself in the adjacent offices of the Privy Council. Finally he appears, shirt hanging out of his trousers and hair in a mess, striding past the massive sound system that stands guard by the door of his office.

In last week's reshuffle, Lord (Charlie) Falconer, 46, was promoted after just a year as Solicitor General. The appointment stirred up accusations of cronyism in the Government - accusations that erupted all the more violently this week when Gus Macdonald was appointed Scottish Industry Minister.

On the face of it, the accusations seem justified. Lord Falconer, unlike Mr Macdonald, has known Tony Blair since boyhood (they both attended public schools in Scotland). As young barristers, they shared a flat in south London. According to some reports, they have even shared girlfriends (though never at the same time).

Shortly before the general election, the Labour leadership attempted to find him a seat, but he withdrew from contesting Dudley North to make way for Ross Cranston QC - the man who replaced him as Solicitor General. (The Falconer children's attendance at independent schools, it seemed, would not go down well with voters.) He declines to speak in detail about his appointment to the Government, beyond saying, "I was offered the job on 4 May. How long before that had he discussed joining? It wasn't completely out of the blue."

Falconer's elevation to the Lords last year went against the convention that law officers - the Attorney General and the Solicitor General - should come from the Commons. He

had no great record for left-wing cases or human rights work. On the contrary, he has acted for British Nuclear Fuels (against leukaemia victims) and for British Coal (against unions).

But Lord Falconer cannot reasonably be accused of advancing himself. His new position attracts a salary of just £53,264 - a healthy sum by most people's standards, but rather lower than his salary as Solicitor General (£80,290); it is also less than a tenth of what he is likely to have earned as a barrister until the general election last year. He has also done some work for the Labour Party, advising on a challenge to its control of Wolverhampton Council, and its response to the Scott Inquiry.

And Lord Falconer is one of the few politicians to have progressed to a senior level in the law. Others, such as Mr Blair and the Minister of State in the Lord Chancellor's Department, Geoff Hoon MP, may have qualified as barristers but they did not practise for long.

As Solicitor General, he deliberately went out to meet legal and other groups around the country. According to his former parliamentary private secretary, Keith Vaz MP, Falconer carried out more engagements in a year than his predecessors as solicitor general in a whole decade. He also "brought a breath of fresh air to a department not known for charismatic figures".

The promotion represents a momentous change. Lord Falconer has been a lawyer for 25 years. Both his father and grandfather were lawyers before him. "Everything has involved law in some way or other," he says. "For the first time, I'm not doing a lawyer's job, which is liberating in some respects. It's great for lawyers to have a change. I'm incredibly excited about doing something general."

His new, informal title, "deputy enforcer", is misleading, making



Lord Falconer: 'It's great for lawyers to have a change. I'm incredibly excited' Adrian Demis

him sound like a supplementary whip. "The whips are responsible for parliamentary business," he explains, "but this is about the machinery of government itself."

Lord Falconer, with Dr Cunningham above him, will formalise and enhance co-ordination of policy across the entire Government, tackling the parochialism which has beset individual departments.

Nor does "enforcer" mean "bully". Former colleagues insist that the popular, cheerful Lord Falconer could hardly be less of a bruiser. His former head of chambers at Fountain Court, Peter Scott QC, long ago recognised in him the

sort of person who can weigh up dispassionately the pros and cons of given policies. Mr Scott appointed him to a role that required several of the qualities needed in the new government job: chairman of the chambers' strategic committee.

Would all barristers make good politicians? "That depends entirely on the personality involved," Lord Falconer says. "The biggest challenge was to make the transition from private practice to government. A job in government requires teamwork. Instead of simply persuading a judge that you are right, you must play a team role."

Having learnt that lesson, Lord Falconer may find it hard to return to the law. "It can be difficult to go back," Mr Scott says. "But he would be extremely welcome back at Fountain Court."

Lord Falconer does not think that returning to the law would be too difficult. "Everyone tells me it is, but the present Attorney General used to be Secretary of State for Wales before going back to a successful career in criminal law."

For the immediate future the question remains hypothetical. It is not likely to be the most important thing on his mind as he finds his way round the unfamiliar corridors of the Cabinet Office.

The real test of human rights

OUR
LEARNED
FRIEND



LOUISE CHRISTIAN

WE NOW have a government that says it is committed to human rights and is bringing in a Human Rights Bill. One sure test of human rights is whether the investigation of those who die at the hands of the state is thorough and independent. That did not happen in South Africa under apartheid - remember Steve Biko? - or in some Latin American nations. So what happens in England? Deaths in custody, including those resulting from the use of force - such as those of Ibrahim Sey, Richard O'Brien, Alton Manning, Brian Douglas and Wayne Douglas - are investigated by coroners' courts. So what is wrong with coroners' courts?

■ No legal aid for the bereaved family, despite the police and/or the prison service being represented at public expense.

■ No disclosure of evidence in advance by the police or prison service, so the family's lawyers, if any, are disadvantaged.

■ No rights for lawyers for the family to call witnesses or address the jury on the facts: only the coroner can do this.

■ Jury verdicts are restricted, particularly those suggesting negligence by the state.

■ It is the coroner, not the jury, who makes recommendations to prevent similar deaths.

Despite promises in opposition, the Government is not proposing to reform the system. Research by the Home Office showed that nearly half of those who have died following restraint were black. Virtually all the families of those who had died in custody felt that the investigation by the coroner's court was not fair.

Last week, the Court of Appeal (CA) found that the 1996 inquest into the death of Wayne Douglas was flawed because the coroner did not direct the jury properly and made it too difficult for them to return a verdict of unlawful killing.

Despite this, the CA declined to order a new inquest because of "the stress and the expense". The judgment clearly signalled that the CA regards the returning of a proper verdict and the family's right to justice as subordinate to cost. An

appeal against this will go to the House of Lords.

Other families may be denied an inquest altogether. This was the case after the death of Joy Gardner five years ago. She died of asphyxiation after police wound masking tape round her head to restrain her. They were assisting an immigration officer trying to deport her to Jamaica.

Two police officers were charged with manslaughter and acquitted. The coroner then decided not to hold an inquest. Myra Simpson, Joy Gardner's mother, did not realise she could challenge this decision. The failure to hold an inquest meant there was never a real examination of what went wrong. Last week the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, announced that increased powers to restrain people would be given to police and immigration officers.

One result of the inadequate and unfair investigation by coroners into controversial deaths is that there is little public pressure on the authorities. Families of those dying from positional asphyxia have seen no real action to prevent further deaths because the inquest process masks the unlawful actions of the state.

Unless this government acts to restore confidence in the system, its professed commitment to human rights will look like a sham.

Louise Christian is a partner in Christian Fisher, civil liberties solicitors, and acts for the families of Wayne Douglas and Joy Gardner.

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Public Notices

DONEGAN
JOHN RICHARD DONEGAN
late of Thamesmead,
London SE28
died there
on 16 November 1996
(Estate about £7,000)

KEITH
CHARLES EDWARD
DRYSDALE KEITH
late of Richmond, Surrey
died at Twickenham, London SW17
on 1 February 1998
(Estate about £600,000)

McEVILLY
TERENCE WILLIAM
McEVILLY
late of Sutton Coldfield,
West Midlands
died there
on 9 October 1997
(Estate about £7,000)

SMITH
ALBERT SMITH
late of Bristol
died there
on 29 January 1998
(Estate about £60,000)

SOPP
RICHARD THOMAS SOPP
late of Ealing, London W5
died there
on 29 January 1998
(Estate about £90,000)

WATSON
PETER JOHN ANTHONY
WATSON otherwise PETER
JOHN WATSON
late of Ealing, London W5
died there
on 26 February 1998
(Estate about £5,500)

WILLIAMS
ALBERT WILLIAMS
late of Derby
died there
on 4 June 1996
(Estate about £5,000)

WILLIAMS
BLODWIN MARY WILLIAMS
otherwise BLODWIN
WILLIAMS, SPINSTER
late of Treharris, Mid Glamorgan
died there
on 11 March 1997
(Estate about £97,000)

The widow/widower and kin of the above named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (B.V.) Queen Anne's Chambers, 24 Broadwalk, London E14 7JL, to whom the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NEW JUSTICES LICENCE
LICENSING ACT 1964
COURT: The Magistrates' Court,
70 Horseferry Road,
London, SW1
HEARING DATE/TIME: Tuesday 3
September 1998 at 10.30am
PREMISES: Lower Howard Spink
Limited, Bowmaker House, 3rd
Floor, 68/74 Kingsbridge,
London, SW7
APPLICANT: Christopher Joseph
Malles
ADDRESS: 26 Preston Hook
Road, Staines, Middlesex
TRADE OR CALLING: Office
Services Director
APPLICANT: Paul David
Hammerley
ADDRESS: 25 Edge Street,
London, W1
TRADE OR CALLING: Managing Director
TAKE NOTICE that the Applicants
intend to apply at the Licensing
Sessions for the said Division to be
held at the place date and time
shown above for the grant to them of a
Justices Licence authorising them to
sell by retail intoxicating liquor of all
descriptions for consumption on or
off the above premises.
DATED 21 July 1998
PAINSON & CO
Solicitors and Licensed Agents for
and on behalf of the said Applicants

No. 003706 of 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF
JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF
NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT
(INTERNATIONAL) PLC
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE
COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that the Order of the High Court
of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 29th day of July 1998
confirming the reduction of share
capital of the Company from
£20,000 and £20,000,000 to
£20,000 and £20,000,000 and the
Minute approved by the Court
showing with respect to the capital
of the Company an altered
several particulars required by the
above-mentioned Act were
registered by the Registrar of
Companies on the 28th day of July
1998.
DATED this 7th day of August 1998.
Richard Butler
Deputy Registrar
15 St. Nicholas Street
London EC3A 7EE
Ref: MVW/98-15894

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John 11/10/98

ly cry?

NEW FILMS

THE ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD (U)
See The Independent Recommends, right
CW: Barbican Screen, Curzon Mayfair, Screen on the Hill

ARMAGEDDON (12)
Director: Michael Bay
Starring: Bruce Willis, Ben Affleck, Liv Tyler, Billy Bob Thornton

This deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action-adventure and a global disaster movie. Quite bafflingly, it often struggles to be all of these things at once, with almost every moment carefully engineered to include something for all the family.

Dad will enjoy the guff camaraderie of the deep-core drillers dispatched to sabotage the course of a meteor which is heading for Earth. The love of the chief driller, Harry Stamper (Bruce Willis), for his daughter, Grace (Liv Tyler), should please Mum, while the candy-coated exchanges between Grace and her fiancé, AJ (Ben Affleck), will keep Big Sister quiet. Kid Brother is sure to be thrilled whenever a burning car sails through the air, and there's even a treat for Fido when a chunk of flaming rock transforms the centre of New York into a charred crater, but cannot silence a yapping dog.

Director Michael Bay's picture has a problem with the complexities of identity, and not only in terms of its audience profile. In *Armageddon*, the world's countries are acknowledged - which at least marks an advance on *Deep Impact*, in which the end of the world apparently only posed a threat to a stretch of motorway and some desirable beachfront properties. But is being represented by crude picture-postcard tableaux any better than not being represented at all? *Armageddon* gives us a crowd at prayer before the Taj Mahal; wise old sages at a Shanghai soup stall; and hip young things crowded around a Parisian cafe table.

The film has some fun with its heroes, an assembly of misfits and sociopaths who have spent their lives on oil rigs. "Talk about the Wrong Stuff," one character remarks as the team convenes for the traditional slow-motion walk toward the camera, looking like a space-age Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band.

One of America's favourite self-defining symbols is the lantern-jawed cowboy. As Bruce Willis plays him, Harry could eat John Wayne as an hors d'oeuvre, if real men ate hors d'oeuvres, that is. He is straight-talking and fiercely macho; his face is as craggy and impervious as the meteor that he is trying to destroy.

This whole end-of-the-world nonsense turns out to simply be a preamble to Grace and AJ's wedding, though in all the excitement, everyone seems to have forgotten Grace being wiped out in the final reel. We are supposed to be soothed by the fact that AJ has survived. I am not being ungrateful: he has a cheeky smile and an adorable way of cocking his head and batting his eyelids when he is trying to be sincere. But as a substitution for 2,000 years of culture and history, I am not sure he really cuts it. CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD (18)
Director: John Hillcoat
Starring: Thelma Houston, Rachel Griffiths
Nick Cave was one of the musical consultants on this heady melodrama, and indeed the whole film feels like one of his own murder ballads stretched out for two hours. Actually, it is the work of John Hillcoat, who made the intense prison drama, *Ghosts... of the Civil Dead*, but here throws together too many over-heated clichés to form a kind of low-rent *Vertigo*, with Thelma Houston remaking his lover, Rachel Griffiths, in the image of his former wife. CW: ABC Piccadilly, Metro

ZERO EFFECT (15)
See The Independent Recommends, right
CW: Odeon Camden Town, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

Ryan Gilbey

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS



Film Ryan Gilbey
ZERO EFFECT is the furiously funny debut from the 22-year-old writer-director Jake Kasdan (son of Lawrence). Bill Pullman turns in a jubilant performance as Dery Zero, the world's greatest private investigator and a Howard Hughes-style recluse to boot. He is at his most bewitching when his raging energy is muzzled beneath a veneer of respectability - you catch his speed-freak eyes twinkling and his mouth contorting into a lopsided smile and you know that the monster inside him is a breath away from combusting. On general release
Rush to see *The Adventures of Robin Hood*, which is re-released to mark its 60th anniversary. Errol Flynn (above) is dashing, and the picture has a fizzy flair that is absent from many modern adventure movies. I'm not saying they don't make them like this anymore, but as an antidote to a blockbuster such as *Armageddon*, this is just the ticket. On general release

Theatre Dominic Cavendish
WITH ITS FUSION of scientific terms and stark design, Copenhagen might seem like a physics masterclass, but Michael Frayn's (below) imagining of the 1941 meeting between the German physicist, Werner Heisenberg, and his Danish mentor, Niels Bohr, in occupied Denmark is so expertly conducted that the dry exchanges about nuclear research mushroom into a gripping study of mankind's slippery nature. *Cottesloe, Royal National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-452 3000) 7.30pm*
Another three-hander tackling science head-on, this time from a realist. After a succession of novels, Carl Djerassi, who synthesised the Pill in 1951, has turned his hand to a play. An immaculate *Misconduct* - which looks at the latest in vitro fertilisation treatments - promises to be an alternative to the usual fluff of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, which is now under way.
C Two, St Columba's by the Castle (Venue 4), Johnston Terrace, Edinburgh (0131-225 5105) 1.50pm

Events Judith Palmer

DREAM ENGINE will certainly be praying for an un-bustly day tomorrow, since they will be hanging off a trapeze beneath a moving helium balloon, 20 metres up in the air above the National Theatre, as part of a day of free air-bound performance and street theatre. Momentary Fusion will glide through an elegantly choreographed aerial contemporary dance-piece, while Hi-Jinx fly through more circus routines. Bedlam Oz perform Slinky Love, a slyth courtship ritual for giant silver springs; while The Natural Theatre Company (above) schmooze along the river with deadpan expressions and daft costumes in their incarnations as alien Coneheads, or the grim-faced evangelists of "No Smiling Day". *Royal National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-452 3327) shows run constantly from 12.45 - 7.30pm tomorrow*



Pop Tim Perry

LUXURY TOILETS and swimming pools are what the organisers of Guildford '98 festival hope will set them apart from their bigger competitors. Today offers the best line-up with Space, Bentley Rhythm Ace, Asian Dub Foundation (right) and Sunhouse on the main stage and LTJ Bukem in the dance tent. Shed seven top Saturday's diverse bill, which includes sets from Beth Orton, the Delgados, Dean "Lucky Stars" Friedman and the Wuruzels. The Lightning Seeds and Ian Dury perform on Sunday.
Stoke Park, Guildford (info line: 01483 451159) today to Sun. £47 for weekend, daily tickets also available
A very different festival is on offer at the Big Chill's Enchanted Garden. A small, mixed-media experience set in landscaped grounds, it features Dego from 4 Hero on the decks, Robert Miles, Global Communication, Pork Recordings, classical DJs and ensembles plus a moonlit art trail. *Larmer Tree Victorian Pleasure Gardens, nr Tolleray Royal, Wiltshire (bookings: 0171-771 2000) today to Sun. £50*



GENERAL RELEASE

BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE (U)
Feature-length exploits for the big, jolly dinosaur. Ideal for the more undemanding pre-school viewer - but an endurance test for anyone else. CW: Clapham Picture House, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE CASTLE (12)
When his family home is threatened with demolition, truck driver Darryl Kerrigan (Michael Caine) decides to fight back. File under quirky Australian kitsch. CW: Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

DANCE OF THE WIND (U)
Indian TV star Kiti Ghani plays Pallavi, a singer of Hindustani classical music, who dries up on stage following the death of her mother. CW: Gale Notting Hill, Renoir

THE DAYTRIPPERS (15)
When Eliza (Hope Davis) tells her parents that she thinks her husband is having an affair, the whole family joins her on a trip to Manhattan to confront him. First-time writer-director Greg Mottola charts the tensions of the family car journey with unerring wit and unexpected compassion. CW: Curzon Minima, Odeon Camden Town, Phoenix Cinema, Richmond Filmhouse, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

DR DOLITTLE (PG)
The thought of Eddie Murphy functioning within the restrictions of a PG certificate may not be a promising one, but in the snappy new film version of *Dr Dolittle*, he shows that his talents are more pliable than they might first have appeared. CW: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE GINGERBREAD MAN (15)
The routine level of so much in *The Gingerbread Man* disappoints on every front. Robert Altman is a great director, but with this film he is merely marking time. CW: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Warner Village West End

GODZILLA (PG)
The team which cooked up such blockbusters as *StarGate* and *Independence Day* is generally very adept at constructing enjoyable adventures. Unfortunately, on this occasion their light touch has deserted them. CW: Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

LA GRANDE ILLUSION (U)
Jean Renoir's reissued 1937 classic is the tenderest of war movies. CW: ABC Swiss Centre, Screen on the Hill

GREASE (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)
Twentieth-anniversary reissue of the nostalgic musical with John Travolta's as the greased-up high-school heart-breaker CW: ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Virgin Trocadero

HANA-BI (18)
Violent yet elegiac portrait of a brutal Japanese policeman pushed over the edge by his traumatic personal life. CW: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Gate Notting Hill, Metro, Ritzy Cinema

THE LITTLE MERMAID (U)
This sprightly adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's story - re-released for the summer holidays - began a string of hits for Disney. Pleasantly jazzy holiday fare. CW: Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Rio Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

LOST IN SPACE (PG)
Yet another cult 1960s television series gets an expensive makeover, but the film-makers have remained faithful to the original tone and the movie looks terrific. William Hurt stars as a frosty scientist who journeys with his family into space to save the Earth from destruction and, of course, learns how to bond with his kids in the process. CW: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

LOVE AND DEATH ON LONG ISLAND (15)
A warm, subtle comedy, starring John Hurt as a reclusive widower who becomes obsessed with a young film actor, Jason Friesley. CW: Curzon Notting Hill, Renoir

MAD CITY (15)
A despairingly simplistic drama starring Dustin Hoffman and John Travolta. CW: Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE MAGIC SWORD: QUEST FOR CAMELOT (U)
The first full-length product of Warner's new animation division, this Arthurian adventure looks and sounds even cheesier than the average Disney effort. But beneath the surface there is an edge of genuine weirdness that will keep parents entertained. CW: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MOJO (15)
Mojo is set in a mythologised 1950s Soho inhabited by petty gangsters. It concentrates on sexual tension in a way which American crime movies generally shy away from. CW: ABC Swiss Centre

MONK DAWSON (18)
A sensitive Catholic priest succumbs to temptation, loses his faith and takes to the party circuit. You can just about discern the honourable intentions hiding within *Monk Dawson*, but far better to enjoy the film for the hotch-potch of melodrama and sensationalism that it is. CW: Odeon Haymarket

PAULIE (U)
Once the muse of indie legend John Cassavetes, Gena Rowlands here has the chance to work with a talking parrot. Voiced by Jay Mohr, Paulie is the wisecracking bird who takes a wry look at human foibles in this likeable kids' movie. CW: Virgin Trocadero

PSYCHO (15)
I envy anyone who will get their first taste of *Psycho* with this new print. Imagine not being fazed in Hitchcock's language of tricks and seeing the Bates Motel for the very first time. CW: Chelsea Cinema

SIX DAYS, SEVEN NIGHTS (12)
Now too old and craggy to be leaping from moving trains, action man Harrison Ford here tries to reinvent himself as a romantic lead. CW: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

SLIDING DOORS (15)
Romantic comedy sending its heroine, Gwyneth Paltrow, off into two separate realities at the same time, with two different suitors (John Hannah and John Lynch). CW: Plaza, Virgin Fulham Road

THE THIEF (15)
The *Thief* is a familiar story, told with competence, but it is only the acting, performed with great passion, which makes this film special. CW: Renoir

THE WEDDING SINGER (PG)
A shamelessly dumb but very winning comedy about a hopelessly romantic wedding singer (Saturday Night Live's Adam Sandler) who falls in love with a waitress (Drew Barrymore), only to find that she is engaged to someone else. CW: Odeon Mezzanine, Warner Village West End

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET
(0171-935 9772) • Baker Street Dr
Delittle 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm,
8.45pm Grease (20th Anniversary
Edition) 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

ABC PANTON STREET
(0171-930 0631) • Piccadilly Circus As
Good As It Gets 2pm, 5pm, 8pm The
Big Lebowski 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm,
8.30pm Jackie Brown 1.30pm, 4.00pm,
7.45pm Live Flesh 1.40pm, 4pm,
6.20pm, 8.40pm

ABC PICCADILLY
(0171-437 3561) • Piccadilly Circus
Lolita 2.05pm, 5.05pm, 8pm To Have
And To Hold 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm,
8.35pm

ABC SHAFESBURY AVENUE
(0171-936 6279) • Leicester
Square/Tottenham Court Road The
Gingerbread Man 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm,
8.30pm Hana-Bi 1.20pm, 3.50pm,
6.20pm, 8.50pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE
(0171-439 4470) • Leicester
Square/Piccadilly Circus Desperately
Seeking Harry 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm,
8.40pm La Grande Illusion 1.10pm,
3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Kurt &
Courtney 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm,
8.30pm Mojo 3.40pm Slieg Blada
1.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD
(0171-636 6148) • Tottenham Court
Road Armageddon 12noon, 3pm, 6pm,
8.30pm Dr Dolittle 1pm, 3.05pm,
5.15pm, 7.25pm, 9.40pm Lost In Space
12.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.20pm

BARBICAN SCREEN
(0171-382 7000) • Barbican The
Adventures Of Robin Hood 3pm, 6pm,
8.40pm Armageddon 5.30pm, 8.30pm

CHELSEA CINEMA
(0171-351 3742) • Sloane Square
Psycho 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE
(0171-496 2242) • Clapham Common
Armageddon 3pm, 6pm, 8pm Barney's
Great Adventure 12noon, 3.30pm The
Castle 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm,
7.30pm, 9.30pm Dr Dolittle 12.45pm,
2.45pm, 4.45pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm

CURZON MAYFAIR
(0171-389 1720) • Green Park The
Adventures Of Robin Hood 1.15pm,
3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

ELPHANT & CASTLE CORONET
(0171-703 4668) • Elephant & Castle
Armageddon 1.20pm, 4pm, 6pm Dr
Dolittle 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE
(0171-437 1234) • Leicester Square
The Castle 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm,
9pm, 11.40pm, 11.55pm Grease
(20th Anniversary Edition) 3.10pm,
6pm, 9pm, 11.20pm

GATE NOTTING HILL
(0171-727 4043) • Notting Hill Gate
Dance Of The Wind 3.15pm, 5.15pm,
7.15pm Hana-Bi 9.10pm, 11.30pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN
(0870-9070718) • Hammersmith
Armageddon 1pm, 4.30pm, 8pm Dr
Dolittle 12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm,
6.20pm, 8.30pm Godzilla 2.45pm,
5.40pm, 8.50pm Lost In Space 12noon,
3pm, 6pm, 8pm The Magic Sword:
Quest For Camelot 12.30pm

METRO
(0171-437 0757) • Piccadilly
Circus Hana-Bi 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm,
8.45pm To Have And To Hold 3pm, 5pm,
7pm, 9pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) • Notting Hill Gate
Armageddon 1.45pm, 4.45pm, 6pm,
8.50pm La Grande Illusion 4.35pm,
8.50pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN
(0181-315 4229) • Camden Town
Armageddon 1.45pm, 5pm, 8.15pm,
11.25pm The Daytrippers 12.10pm,
2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm,
11.40pm Dr Dolittle 12.05pm, 2.20pm,
4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm Godzilla met
11.45pm Lost In Space 12noon,
2.55pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm, 11.35pm
Screen 21.30pm Zero Effect 2.45pm,
5.30pm, 8.45pm, 11.30pm

ODEON HAYMARKET
(0181-315 4212) • Piccadilly Circus
Meek Dawson 1.15pm, 3.40pm,
6.20pm, 8.45pm

ODEON KENSINGTON
(0181-315 4214) • High Street
Kensington Armageddon 12.10pm,
1.45pm, 3.35pm, 5.10pm, 7pm, 8.35pm,
10.30pm, 12midnight The Castle
1.25pm, 6.55pm Dr Dolittle 12.35pm,
2.50pm, 5.05pm, 7.20pm, 9.35pm,
11.50pm The Gingerbread Man 1pm,
3.45pm, 6.45pm, 9.45pm, 12.30pm
Godzilla 3.40pm, 9.10pm, 12.20pm
The Little Mermaid 11.40pm Lost In
Space 12.25pm, 3.25pm, 6.25pm,
9.25pm, 12.25pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE
(0181-315 4215) • Leicester Square
Armageddon 11am, 2.10pm, 5.35pm,
8.45pm, 11.55pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(0181-315 4216) • Marble Arch
Armageddon 11.15am, 1.35pm,
2.30pm, 5.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.35pm,
9pm, 12.15pm Dr Dolittle 11.40am,
1.55pm, 4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm,
12midnight Godzilla 11.30am, 2.40pm,
5.50pm, 9pm The Little Mermaid
11.35am Lost In Space 12noon,
3.05pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm, 12.05pm

ODEON MEZZANINE
(0181-315 4215) • Leicester Square
The Dialect Of My Affection 1.35pm,
3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Screen 2
1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.35pm Six
Days, Seven Nights 1.55pm, 4pm,
6.10pm, 8.30pm The Wedding Singer
2.25pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE
(0181-315 4220) • Swiss Cottage
Armageddon 12.20pm, 1.45pm,
3.40pm, 4.55pm, 7.20pm, 8pm The Big
Lebowski 8.35pm The Castle 4.45pm,
6.45pm, 9pm Dr Dolittle 12.25pm,
2.30pm, 4.35pm, 6.40pm, 8.45pm The
Gingerbread Man 3.30pm, 6pm
Godzilla 1.30pm The Little Mermaid
12noon Lost In Space 2.10pm, 5.20pm,
8.15pm The Magic Sword: Quest For
Camelot 1.30pm

ODEON WEST END
(0171-437 4221) • Leicester Square
Lost In Space 12noon, 12.45pm,
2.50pm, 3.40pm, 5.40pm, 6.35pm,
8.30pm, 9.20pm, 11.30pm

PLAZA
(0171-437 1234) • Piccadilly Circus
Deep Impact 12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm,
8.30pm Dr Dolittle 12.30pm, 2.40pm,
4.45pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Godzilla 1.15pm,
4.20pm, 8pm Sliding Doors 1pm,
3.20pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

RENOIR
(0171-837 8402) • Russell Square
Dance Of The Wind 1pm, 2.55pm,
4.50pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm The Thief
2.35pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9pm

RITZY CINEMA
(0171-737 2121/733 2229) BR/•
Brixton Armageddon 2.20pm,
5.30pm, 8.35pm, 11.35pm The
Daytrippers 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm,
11.25pm Dr Dolittle 2.55pm, 5.05pm,
7.10pm, 9.15pm, 11.20pm Godzilla
3pm Hana-Bi 7pm, 9.20pm (+ Short:
In My Dreams) 1.14pm Confidential
11.40pm Lost In Space 3.10pm, 6pm,
8.50pm, 11.30pm Western 2.50pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET
(0171-486 0036) • Baker Street
Armageddon 2.25pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm
Lost In Space 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

SCREEN ON THE GREEN
(0171-226 3520) • Angel
Armageddon 2pm, 5pm, 8.05pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL

(0171-435 3366) • Beltsia Park The
Adventures Of Robin Hood 2.30pm,
6.50pm La Grande Illusion 4.35pm,
8.50pm

UCI WHITELEYS
(0171-792 3332) • Queensway
Armageddon 11am, 1.50pm, 2.20pm, 5.10pm,
5.40pm, 8.20pm, 9.50pm Barney's
Great Adventure 11.40am, 3.20pm
The Castle 7.10pm Dr Dolittle 11.30am,
1.30pm, 2.50pm, 3.40pm, 5pm, 6.40pm,
7.30pm, 9pm, 9.40pm The Gingerbread
Man 9.30pm Godzilla 11.20am,
2.30pm, 5.30pm, 8.40pm The Little
Mermaid 12.40pm Lost In Space
11am, 12noon, 2pm, 3pm, 5.20pm,
6.15pm, 8.30pm, 9.10pm The Magic
Sword: Quest For Camelot 11.10am,
1.10pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA
(0870-9070710) • Sloane
Square/South Kensington Armageddon
2pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm Barney's Great
Adventure 12noon, 2pm The
Gingerbread Man 7pm, 8.30pm Lost
In Space 12.05pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9.10pm
The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot
12.15pm, 2.10pm, 4.30pm Six Days,
Seven Nights 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD
(0870-9070711) • South Kensington
Armageddon 1.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm
The Big Lebowski 1.30pm, 4.10pm,
7pm, 9.30pm The Castle 2pm, 7.10pm
The Daytrippers 1pm, 3.15pm, 7.20pm,
9.30pm Dr Dolittle 12.15pm, 2.40pm,
4.40pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm Godzilla
1.20pm, 5.10pm, 8pm Sliding Doors
4.20pm, 9.15pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET
(0870-9070712) • Piccadilly Circus
The Daytrippers 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9pm
Love And Death On Long Island 2pm,
4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm Zero Effect
1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

VIRGIN TROCADERO
(0870-9070716) • Piccadilly Circus
Barney's Great Adventure 12.20pm,
2pm The Castle 12.15pm, 2.30pm,
4.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm City Of
Angels 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9pm Dark City
Fr 11.50pm Dr Dolittle 12.15pm, 2.40pm,
2.50pm, 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm,
11.40pm Grease (20th Anniversary
Edition) 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.50pm The
Little Mermaid 12noon, 1.50pm Mad
City 6pm, 8.50pm The Magic Sword:
Quest For Camelot 12.10pm, 2pm, 4pm
Nimble 11.40pm Pandita 12.10pm,
2.10pm, 4.10pm The Rakehell
Killer 12midnight Six Days, Seven
Nights 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm, 11.30pm
Soul Food 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 11.20pm
Wishmaster 11.50pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END
(0171-437 4347) • Leicester Square
The Big Lebowski 6.40pm, 9.20pm City
Of Angels 1.35pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm,
9.30pm, 12.05pm Dr Dolittle 11.40am,
2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm,
11.10pm The Gingerbread Man
12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6pm, 9pm, 11.45pm
The Little Mermaid 12.30pm, 2.40pm
Mad City 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm,
9.10pm, 11.45pm The Magic Sword:
Quest For Camelot 11.30am, 1.40pm,
3.50pm Screen 2 12midnight Six
Days, Seven Nights 4.40pm, 7pm,
9.40pm Titanic 12noon, 4pm, 8pm The
Wedding Singer 1.30pm, 11.20pm
Wishmaster 12midnight Zero Effect
12.50pm, 3.30pm, 8.20pm, 8.55pm,
11.45pm

HAMPSTEAD
ABC (0870-9020413) @ Belsize Park
Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.50pm
Dr. Dolittle 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm,
8.45pm Last In Space 2.35pm, 5.25pm,
8.10pm The Magic Sword: Quest For
Camelot 12.35pm

HARROW
SAFARI CINEMA (0181-4363033)
@ Harrow-on-the-Hill/Harrow &
Wealdstone Dushman 8.45pm Ghulam
1.30pm, 5pm Karzee 8.45pm Major
Saab 5pm Paradise 1.30pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427
9000) @ Harrow on the Hill
Armageddon 9.30am, 11.20am,
12.30pm, 2.25pm, 3.30pm, 5.40pm,
6.20pm, 8.50pm, 9.30pm, 11.40pm
Barney's Great Adventure 10.30am,
12.20pm, 2.05pm, 3.50pm Dr. Dolittle
9.40am, 10.10am, 11.40am, 12.10pm,
1.50pm, 2.15pm, 4pm, 4.30pm, 6.10pm,
6.40pm, 8.20pm, 9pm, 10.20pm,
11.10pm, 12.10am Godzilla 11.30am,
2.35pm, 5.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm, 9.10pm,
11.25pm The Little Mermaid 10.50am,
2.50pm Last In Space 10.50am,
10.20am, 12.55pm, 1.10pm, 3.35pm,
4.10pm, 6.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm,
9.40pm, 12.30am The Magic Sword:
Quest For Camelot 12.50pm, 4.50pm
Screen 2 11.50pm Six Days, Seven
Nights 7pm, 9.20pm

HOLLOWAY
ODEON (0181-315 4213) @ Holloway
Road/Archway Armageddon 11.30am,
1.40pm, 2.40pm, 5.20pm, 6pm, 8.40pm,
9.10pm Barney's Great Adventure
12.30pm Dr. Dolittle 11.15am, 1.45am,
1.20pm, 1.50pm, 3.25pm, 3.55pm,
4.40pm, 6.10pm, 7.45pm, 8.15pm,
8.50pm, 10.20pm The Gingerbread
Man 7.50pm Godzilla 2.50pm, 6.20pm,
9.25pm The Little Mermaid 1.50pm,
3.35pm, 5.35pm Last In Space
12.30pm, 2.05pm, 3.20pm, 6.15pm,
6.45pm, 9.05pm, 9.35pm The Magic
Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.50pm
Sliding Doors 10.05pm

ILFORD
ODEON (0181-315 4213) @ Gants
Hill Armageddon 1.20pm, 4.30pm,
7.40pm Barney's Great Adventure
12.30pm, 1.55pm Dr. Dolittle 11.35am,
1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm
Godzilla 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm
Grease (20th Anniversary Edition)
3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm The Little
Mermaid 11.35am Last In Space
11.30am, 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.20pm
The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot
12.20pm

KINGSTON
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409)
BR: Kingston Armageddon 1.10pm,
4.35pm, 7.45pm Barney's Great
Adventure 12.10pm Dr. Dolittle 1.30pm,
2.30pm, 4.35pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm Last
In Space 2.20pm, 5.30pm, 8.05pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (0181-315 4217) @ Highgate
Armageddon 1.40pm, 4.50pm, 7.20pm,
9.30pm, 11.10pm, 11.40pm
Godzilla 1.25pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm,
8.50pm, 11.55pm Grease (20th
Anniversary Edition) 1.55pm, 5.25pm
The Little Mermaid 12.30pm The Magic
Sword: Quest For Camelot 1.20pm,
4.50pm, 6.45pm Paradise 12.10pm
Food 9.20pm, 11.50pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870-9020401) @ Putney
Bridge BR: Putney Armageddon
2.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm Barney's Great
Adventure 1.15pm Dr. Dolittle 1.15pm,
3.30pm, 5.45pm, 7.45pm, 10.10pm Last
In Space 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 9.15pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (0181-315 4218) BR/ @
Richmond Armageddon 1.40pm,
5.20pm, 8.30pm Dr. Dolittle 1.20pm,
2.50pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm Last
In Space 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm,
9.10pm

ODEON STUDIO (0181-315 4218)
BR/ @ Richmond Armageddon 1.40pm,
5.20pm, 8.30pm Dr. Dolittle 1.20pm,
2.50pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm Last
In Space 12.10pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm,
9.10pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford
Armageddon 1.40pm, 4.55pm, 8pm
Barney's Great Adventure 1.30pm Dr.
Dolittle 1.20pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm,
8.55pm, 9pm Last In Space 2.20pm,
5.15pm, 8.10pm The Magic Sword:
Quest For Camelot 12.30pm

ROMFORD
ODEON LIBERTY 2 (01709-
294040) BR: Romford Armageddon
10.30am Armageddon 1pm, 1.45pm,
4.30pm, 5.10pm, 7.45pm, 8.45pm
Barney's Great Adventure 12.20pm,
2.30pm Dr. Dolittle 11.10am, 12.30pm,
2.30pm, 4.15pm, 5.10pm, 6.30pm,
7.30pm, 8.40pm, 9.30pm George Of
The Jungle 10.30am Godzilla 2.30pm,
5.30pm, 8.30pm Grease (20th
Anniversary Edition) 4pm The Little
Mermaid 12.30pm Last In Space
11.15am, 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 3.15pm,
5.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm, 9.15pm The
Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot
12.40pm Mousehold 10.30am Paws
10.30am The Wedding Singer 6.40pm,
8.50pm

SIDCUP
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup
Armageddon 1pm, 4.30pm, 8pm
Barney's Great Adventure 12.10pm
Last In Space 2.05pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-9070171) BR:
Cricklewood Armageddon 1.30pm,
2.30pm, 4.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm,
9pm, 11.30pm, 12.30am Barney's
Great Adventure 12.45pm, 2.30pm
Dr. Dolittle 1pm, 5pm, 7.10pm, 9.15pm,
9.40pm, 11.45pm Godzilla 2.15pm,
5.15pm, 8.30pm The Little Mermaid
12.30pm Last In Space 12.30pm,
2.30pm, 5.40pm, 8.45pm, 12.30am
The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot
12.15pm Soul Food 11.45pm The
Wedding Singer 11.30pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-9020415) BR: Streatham Hill
Armageddon 1.15pm, 4.30pm, 7.45pm
The Castle 8.35pm Dr. Dolittle 1.30pm,
3.40pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm Grease (20th
Anniversary Edition) 3.30pm, 6pm
Paulie 1.25pm

ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR:
Streatham Hill/ @ Brixton/Clapham
Common Armageddon 11.20am, 1pm,
2.30pm, 4.10pm, 5.40pm, 7.40pm,
8.50pm Barney's Great Adventure
11.20am Dr. Dolittle 11.45am, 1.45pm,
3.45pm, 5.45pm, 7.45pm, 9.45pm
Godzilla 3.20pm, 6.20pm, 9.20pm The
Little Mermaid 1.10pm Last In Space
3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Magic
Sword: Quest For Camelot 1pm

NEW STRATFORD
PICTURE HOUSE (555 3366)
BR/ @ Stratford East Armageddon
11.45am, 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm Dr.
Dolittle 12.30pm, 1.55pm, 3.50pm,
5.50pm, 7.45pm, 9.45pm Godzilla
1.50pm, 4.25pm, 7pm Kurt & Courtney
9.30pm Last In Space 1.15pm, 4pm,
6.45pm, 9.20pm Paulie 12.30pm

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519)
@ Turnpike Lane Armageddon 1.20pm,
4.50pm, 8pm Dr. Dolittle 1.30pm,
3.40pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-9020424) @ Walthamstow
Central Armageddon 1.50pm, 4.50pm,
7.50pm Barney's Great Adventure
12.20pm Dr. Dolittle 12.45pm, 2.45pm,
4.45pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm Last In Space
2.15pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm

WALTON
THE SCREEN AT WALTON
(01932-252525) BR: Walton On Thames
Armageddon 2pm, 5pm, 8pm Dr.
Dolittle 2.25pm, 4.25pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm

WIMBLEDON
ODEON (0181-315 4222) @ South
Wimbledon Armageddon 1.30pm,
4.45pm, 8pm, 11.05pm Barney's Great
Adventure 11.45am, 1.25pm, 2.55pm
Dr. Dolittle 12.15pm, 2.25pm, 4.35pm,
6.45pm, 8.55pm, 11.15pm The Gin-
gerbread Man 8.30pm Godzilla
2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm The Little
Mermaid 1.45am Last In Space
11.15am, 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm,
11.15pm The Magic Sword: Quest For
Camelot 12.50pm, 12.25pm Sliding
Doors 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 11.15pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-389 3463) @ South
Woodford Armageddon 1.55pm, 4.55pm,
7.50pm Barney's Great Adventure
12.10pm Dr. Dolittle 12.35pm, 2.50pm,
4.55pm, 7pm, 9pm Last In Space
2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm The Magic
Sword: Quest For Camelot 12.15pm

WOOD GREEN
NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664)
@ Turnpike Lane Ampney phone for
times Anytime Na.1 phone for times
Kharwall Baharwall phone for times
Kharwall phone for times Pyar To
Home Hi The phone for times

WOOD GREEN
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Kharwall Baharwall phone for times
Kharwall phone for times Pyar To
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THEATRE

WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today;
times and prices for the week, running
times include intervals. @ Seats at
all prices. * Seats at some prices. O
Returns only. Males - (1) Sun, (2)
Tue, (4) Wed, (5) Thu, (6) Fri, (7) Sat

ART STACY KEACH David Dukes,
George Wendt in Yasmina Reza's
comedy about art and friendship.
Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2
(0171-369 1736/cc 967 1111) @ Leic
Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 11pm,
£9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
Lavish family musical based on Disney's
cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale.
Dorland Tottenham Court Road, W1
(0171-656 1888) @ Tottenham Court Rd, W1
Wed, Fri & Sat 7.30pm, [4] £10, [5] £17,
2.30pm, £18.50-£35, 150 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy
Russell's long-running Liverpool
musical melodrama. Phoenix Charing
Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733)
@ Leic Sq/Tottenham Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.45pm,
(5) 3pm, (7) 4pm, £10.50-£29.50,
165 mins.

BUDDY Musical blog-show tracing
the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand
Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800)
@ Covent Garden/Charing X. Tue-Thu
8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm &
8.30pm, mats (1) 4pm, £6.75-£30,
160 mins.

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical
version of TS Eliot's poems. New
London Parkers Street, WC2 (0171-405
0072/cc 404 4079) @ Covent
Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3] 7pm,
[7] 3pm, £10.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

CHICAGO Rubie Henschel stars
in this hit Broadway musical.
Aldwych, WC2 (0171-344 0055)
@ Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4] 7p,
2.30pm, £16-£36 (incl booking fee),
130 mins.

CLOSER Superb study of
contemporary sexual relationships from
Cecilia's Choice artist Patrick Marber.
Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494
5045) @ Pic. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[4] 7p, £7.50-£27.50, 140 mins.

**THE COMPLETE WORKS OF
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**
(ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare
Company led forward through 37 plays.
Cilrilliana Piccadilly Circus, W1
(0171-369 1747) @ Pic. Circ. Wed-Sat
8pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 5pm, [1] 4pm, £9.50-
£20, 120 mins.

DR. DOLITTLE Philip Schofield
talks to the animals in this new stage
adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets.
Labatt's Apollo Hammersmith Queen
Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6022)
@ Hammersmith, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[4] 7p, £2.30pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

**GENTLEMEN PREFER
BLONDES** Sara Crowe stars in
this musical featuring the songs Diamonds
Are A Girl's Best Friend, Open Air Regent's
Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431/cc 486
1933) @ Baker Street, Tonight 8pm, ends
1 Sep, £8-£20.

GREASE Marissa Dunlop stars
in the stage version of the hit film.
Cambridge End, E1 (0171-330 3647)
The Traveller (Mosaic) UK Premiere (NC)
5pm, 7pm, 9pm Resisted Shows: New
Film And Video From America (NC)
6.30pm Cinema Electronic: Pop
Promos For Underground Dance Acts
(NC) 8.30pm The Traveller (Mosaic):
UK Premiere (NC) 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

THE LUX HUSTON SQUARE (0171-684
0201) Artists' Pictas: Salt-
Investigation Shows (NC) 7pm Dial H-
I-S-T-D-R-Y (NC) 9pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274)
Sherlock Junior (U) 2pm Fun Family
Business (NC) 2.30pm Knife In The
Water (PG) 7.30pm King And Country
(U) 6.15pm Steamboat Bill Jr (NC)
(NC) 6.30pm A Man Vanishes: Studied
Immature (NC) 8.30pm Joris Ivens
Programme 5 Documentary Shorts:
Joris Ivens (NC) 8.40pm

PEPSI IMAX The Trocadero,
Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-494 4153)
Across The Sea Of Time - A New York
Adventure (3-D) (U) 11am, 1.05pm,
5.20pm, 9.35pm L5 - City In Space (U)
12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 8.25pm,
10.45pm Everest (U) 4.40pm, 7.20pm

PHOENIX CINEMA High Road N2
(0181-444 6789) The Object Of My
Affection (1) 4.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm,
8.45pm The Daytrippers (15) 4.40pm,
6.50pm, 9pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place
WC2 (0171-437 8181) Gattaca (15)
10pm Good Will Hunting (15) 3.30pm
The Replacement Killers (18) 8.15pm
The Rainmaker (15) 9pm The Rocky
Horror Picture Show (15) 11.50pm

RIO CINEMA (0171-254 6677) BR:
Delton Kingsland Armageddon 2pm,
5.10pm, 8.15pm The Little Mermaid
11.30am

VENTURE CENTRE Womington
Road W10 (0181-960 3234) Video
Gate: Portobello Film And Video
Festival (NC) 6pm-11pm

WATERSMANS ARTS CENTRE
High Street TW8 (0181-568 1176) The
Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot (U)
1pm, 3pm The Thief (15) 5pm, 9pm
Deconstructing Harry (18) 7pm

BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORKS (01273-626261)
Hana-Bi (18) 2.30pm, 9.15pm The
Thief (15) 7.15pm The Wings Of
The Dove (15) 5pm

BRISTOL
WATERSHED (0117-925 3845)
The Apostle (12) 5.30pm, 8.15pm
Mojo (15) 6pm Touch (15) 8.30pm

CARDIFF
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE
(01222-393666) The Daytrippers (15)
8.40pm Don't Look Back (NC) 7.30pm
U-Turn (18) 6.15pm

NORWICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-623047)
Alice in Wonderland (U) 2.30pm The
Replacement Killers (18) 11.15pm
Sliding Doors (15) 4.45pm Western
(18) 8.15pm

PLYMOUTH
ARTS CENTRE (01752-205114)
Lolita (18) 6pm, 9pm

THEATRE

WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today;
times and prices for the week, running
times include intervals. @ Seats at
all prices. * Seats at some prices. O
Returns only. Males - (1) Sun, (2)
Tue, (4) Wed, (5) Thu, (6) Fri, (7) Sat

ART STACY KEACH David Dukes,
George Wendt in Yasmina Reza's
comedy about art and friendship.
Wyndham's Charing Cross Road, WC2
(0171-369 1736/cc 967 1111) @ Leic
Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm, [7] 11pm,
£9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
Lavish family musical based on Disney's
cartoon version of the favourite fairy tale.
Dorland Tottenham Court Road, W1
(0171-656 1888) @ Tottenham Court Rd, W1
Wed, Fri & Sat 7.30pm, [4] £10, [5] £17,
2.30pm, £18.50-£35, 150 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy
Russell's long-running Liverpool
musical melodrama. Phoenix Charing
Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733)
@ Leic Sq/Tottenham Ct Rd, Mon-Sat 7.45pm,
(5) 3pm, (7) 4pm, £10.50-£29.50,
165 mins.

BUDDY Musical blog-show tracing
the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand
Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800)
@ Covent Garden/Charing X. Tue-Thu
8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm &
8.30pm, mats (1) 4pm, £6.75-£30,
160 mins.

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical
version of TS Eliot's poems. New
London Parkers Street, WC2 (0171-405
0072/cc 404 4079) @ Covent
Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3] 7pm,
[7] 3pm, £10.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

CHICAGO Rubie Henschel stars
in this hit Broadway musical.
Aldwych, WC2 (0171-344 0055)
@ Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4] 7p,
2.30pm, £16-£36 (incl booking fee),
130 mins.

CLOSER Superb study of
contemporary sexual relationships from
Cecilia's Choice artist Patrick Marber.
Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494
5045) @ Pic. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[4] 7p, £7.50-£27.50, 140 mins.

**THE COMPLETE WORKS OF
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**
(ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare
Company led forward through 37 plays.
Cilrilliana Piccadilly Circus, W1
(0171-369 1747) @ Pic. Circ. Wed-Sat
8pm, [5] 3pm, [7] 5pm, [1] 4pm, £9.50-
£20, 120 mins.

DR. DOLITTLE Philip Schofield
talks to the animals in this new stage
adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets.
Labatt's Apollo Hammersmith Queen
Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6022)
@ Hammersmith, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[4] 7p, £2.30pm, £10-£32.50, 150 mins.

**GENTLEMEN PREFER
BLONDES** Sara Crowe stars in
this musical featuring the songs Diamonds
Are A Girl's Best Friend, Open Air Regent's
Park, NW1 (0171-486 2431/cc 486
1933) @ Baker Street, Tonight 8pm, ends
1 Sep, £8-£20.

GREASE Marissa Dunlop stars
in the stage version of the hit film.
Cambridge End, E1 (0171-330 3647)
The Traveller (Mosaic) UK Premiere (NC)
5pm, 7pm, 9pm Resisted Shows: New
Film And Video From America (NC)
6.30pm Cinema Electronic: Pop
Promos For Underground Dance Acts
(NC) 8.30pm The Traveller (Mosaic):
UK Premiere (NC) 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

THE LUX HUSTON SQUARE (0171-684
0201) Artists' Pictas: Salt-
Investigation Shows (NC) 7pm Dial H-
I-S-T-D-R-Y (NC) 9pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274)
Sherlock Junior (U) 2pm Fun Family
Business (NC) 2.30pm Knife In The
Water (PG) 7.30pm King And Country
(U) 6.15pm Steamboat Bill Jr (NC)
(NC) 6.30pm A Man Vanishes: Studied
Immature (NC) 8.30pm Joris Ivens
Programme 5 Documentary Shorts:
Joris Ivens (NC) 8.40pm

PEPSI IMAX The Trocadero,
Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-494 4153)
Across The Sea Of Time - A New York
Adventure (3-D) (U) 11am, 1.05pm,
5.20pm, 9.35pm L5 - City In Space (U)
12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 8.25pm,
10.45pm Everest (U) 4.40pm, 7.20pm

PHOENIX CINEMA High Road N2
(0181-444 6789) The Object Of My
Affection (1) 4.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm,
8.45pm The Daytrippers (15) 4.40pm,
6.50pm, 9pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place
WC2 (

FRIDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

FULL MARKS FOR ambition go to the makers of Crime and Punishment (10.30pm World Service), six programmes which look at the causes and treatment of crime around the world and throughout history. In tonight's opener, John Pickford rides with the police in Johannesburg, and there's a discussion of 17th-century whipping and executions in modern-day Afghanistan.

More crime in 54 Per Cent Acrylic (9pm RA), an above-average shuffling drama by the Scottish playwright David Harrower. Meanwhile, Sean Bean (right) begins an eight-part reading of Alan Sillitoe's Saturday Night and Sunday Morning (9.15pm R2); and there is dainty escapism in Glamorous Nights: the Ivor Novello Story (7pm R2).



Sean Bean

RADIO 1 (97.8-98.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Moyles. 9.00 Mark Goodier. 11.30 Radio 1 Roadshow: Kevin and Zoe finish their week on the roadshow in Whitley Bay with B*Witched live on stage. 12.30 Newsbeat. 12.45 Jo Whitley. 2.00 Mark Radcliffe: New music gubbins from Mark and Lara, the Cheesily Cheerful Chart Challenge and Harry White's Passion Wagon. 4.00 Dave Pearce. 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection. 8.30 Radio 1 Dance Party. 10.30 Westwood - Radio 1 Rap Show: Hardest-edged rap and hip-hop vibes. 2.00 Fabio and Groovender. 4.00-7.00 Emma B.

RADIO 2 (88-90.2MHz FM)
6.00 Sarah Kennedy. 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan: Including 8.15 Pause for Thought, with the Rev Anne Easter. 9.30 Ken Bruce. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Alex Lester: Entertainment news, the Accumulator Quiz and regular travel updates. 5.05 John Dunn. 7.00 Glamorous Nights: the Ivor Novello Story. See Pick of the Day. 7.30 Friday Night Is Music Night: Introduced by Richard Baker. 9.15 Saturday Night and Sunday Morning. See Pick of the Day. 9.30 Listen to the Band. 10.00 David Jacobs. 10.30 Sheridan Morley. 12.05 Charles Nova. 4.00 Jackie Bird.

RADIO 3 (90.2-92.4MHz FM)
6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Proms Artist of the Week. 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Proms Composer of the Week: Elgar. 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 BBC Proms 98. (R) 4.00 Voices and Vols. 4.45 Quartet. 5.00 In Tune. 7.30 BBC Proms 98. The world premiere of a virtuosic new concerto for orchestra, Berlioz's lovely song cycle, and Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony. Barbara Hendricks (soprano),

Ulster Orchestra/Dmitri Sitkovetsky. Rodion Shchedrin: Four Russian Songs (Concerto for Orchestra No. 5) (BBC commission; first performance). Berlioz: Les nuits de. 8.20 Music and Fate. In conversation with Christopher Cook, John Deathridge traces how concepts of fate and destiny have shaped the music of Berlioz, Tchaikovsky and later composers. 8.40 Concert. part 2. Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 4 in F minor. 9.45 Postscript. Five programmes this week in which Nicholas Ward-Jackson explores the contemporary art world. To conclude the week, he talks to Georgia Starr as she puts the finishing touches to 'Tuberman', a special commission for Birmingham's Ikon Gallery. The work features a scaled-down underground train and a musical commentary that follows the progress of the carriage's fictional characters. Nicholas Ward-Jackson attends the private viewing, a night equally important for Starr and for gallery director Elizabeth A MacGregor. (R) 10.30 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Emilio Pomierico. Natalia Zagoritskaya (soprano), Charles Daniels (tenor). Nonno: 'Sult' 'Intolleranza'. Cantata di vita e d'amore - sul ponte di Hiroshima. Carier: Variations for orchestra. 11.30 Take Me Back to New Orleans. 12.00 Proms Composer of the

Week: Handel. (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night. **RADIO 4** (92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today. 9.00 Desert Island Discs. 9.45 Cod: a Biography of the Fish That Changed the World. 10.00 NEWS: Women's Hour. 11.00 NEWS: Strictly Dancehall. 11.30 Like They've Never Been Gone. 12.00 NEWS: You and Yours. 12.57 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.30 The Write Stuff. 2.00 NEWS: The Archers. 2.15 Afternoon Play: Killer Conquest. (R) 3.00 NEWS: Check Up. 3.30 A Childhood of Play. (R) 3.45 Feedback. 4.00 NEWS: Book Club. 4.30 The Message. 5.00 PM. 5.57 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 RTF. 7.00 NEWS: The Archers. 7.15 Front Row. John Wilson chairs the night's arts programme. 7.45 Postcards: On the Rocks. By Helen Kluger. Sizzling Sydney Satchell, fading American diva, stars out of Hollywood into Portland - with Lorelei King and Tristan Sturrock. Director Pauline Harris (5/5). 8.00 NEWS: Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Totnes, Devon, by panelists including David Hill, Steven Norris and Professor Anthony O'Hear. 8.45 Letter from America. 9.00 NEWS: The Friday Play: 54 Per Cent Acrylic. By David Harrower. A security guard working in a large department store is alerted to the fact that a woman has stolen a dress and is heading his way. With James Cosmo. See Pick of the Day. 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Fame is the Spur. By Howard Spring, read by David Calder (5/10). 11.00 Late Tackle. Martin Bashir with more late-night sports chat. 11.30 Tom Robinson's Gey Games Report. 12.00 NEWS. 12.30 The Late Book: The Shipping News. (R) 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service. 5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 Leisure Report. 5.56 - 6.00 Weather.

RADIO 4 LW (98kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 An Act of Worship. 11.00 Test Match Special: Commentary from Headingley on the second day's play in the Fifth Test. With Jonathan Agnew. 12.00 News Headlines: Shipping Forecast. 12.04 - 1.00 Test Match. 1.30 Test Match Special. 5.54 Shipping. 5.57 - 6.30 Cricket.

RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 90.9kHz MW)
6.00 The Breakfast Programme. 9.00 Nicky Campbell. 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Nationwide. 7.00 News Extra. 7.20 Friday Sport. Rob Ballard introduces coverage of the night's live action, including commentary of London Broncos v Wigan Warriors in rugby league's Super League. 10.00 Late Night Live. Insight and comment on the day's big issues with Brian Hayes. Including Papertalk, 10.30 sport round-up, 11.00 the late night news, and 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 1.00 Up All Night. 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nicky Campbell. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 Jamie Cirk. 6.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 8.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 Michael Meppin. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO (25.187-26.0kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbott. 4.00 Robin Banks. 7.00 Johnny Boy's Wheels of Steel. 11.00 Janey Lee Grace. 2.00 - 6.00 Howard Pearce.

WORLD SERVICE (98kHz LW)
1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 From the Weeklies. 4.45 Britain Today. 2.00 Newsdesk. 2.30 Stories from the Afterlife. 2.45 Short Story. 3.00 Newsday. 3.30 People and Politics. 4.00 World News. 4.05 World Business Report. 4.35 Sports Roundup. 4.30 Weekend. 5.00 Newsday. 5.30 Outlook. 5.55 - 6.00 Spotlight.

TALK RADIO 6.30 Breakfast Show Kirsty Young with Bill Overton. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 11.00 Lorraine Kelly. 11.00 Anna Rieburn. 3.00 Tommy Boyd. 5.00 Peter Dealey. 7.00 Nick Abbott. 10.00 Mike Allen. 2.00 - 6.00 Mike Dickin.

EUROSPORT 7.30 Sailing Magazine (7/30). 8.00 Synchronised Swimming (8/25). 9.00 Football v Inter Milan (6/29). 10.00 Football: World Cup Legends (8/40). 12.45 International Motorsports Magazine (8/40). 1.30 Basketball (8/25). 2.45 Tennis (8/40). 3.45 Football (8/25). 4.45 Football (8/25). 5.45 Football (8/25). 6.45 Football (8/25). 7.45 Football (8/25). 8.45 Football (8/25). 9.45 Football (8/25). 10.45 Football (8/25). 11.45 Football (8/25). 12.45 Football (8/25).

UK GOLD 7.00 Newsround (8/40). 7.30 Newsround (8/40). 8.00 Newsround (8/40). 8.30 Newsround (8/40). 9.00 Newsround (8/40). 9.30 Newsround (8/40). 10.00 Newsround (8/40). 10.30 Newsround (8/40). 11.00 Newsround (8/40). 11.30 Newsround (8/40). 12.00 Newsround (8/40).

WESTCOUNTRY As Carlton except 10.30 Film: Home is Where the Hart Is (8/40). 1.00 On Foot (8/25). 2.45 Westcountry Update (8/25). 3.20 Westcountry News (8/25). 4.00 News: Weekend Weather (8/25). 4.30 Westcountry News (8/25). 5.00 The View from Here (8/25). 11.45 Renegade (7/30). 1.35 ClubVision (8/15). 2.45 The View of the World (8/15). 4.45 The View of the World (8/15). 5.00 The View of the World (8/15). 5.30 The View of the World (8/15). 6.00 The View of the World (8/15). 6.30 The View of the World (8/15). 7.00 The View of the World (8/15). 7.30 The View of the World (8/15). 8.00 The View of the World (8/15). 8.30 The View of the World (8/15). 9.00 The View of the World (8/15). 9.30 The View of the World (8/15). 10.00 The View of the World (8/15). 10.30 The View of the World (8/15). 11.00 The View of the World (8/15). 11.30 The View of the World (8/15). 12.00 The View of the World (8/15).

YORKSHIRE As Carlton except 10.30 Film: Emmerdale (8/40). 2.45 Quayside (8/25). 3.30 Calendar News and Weather (8/25). 5.40 News.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

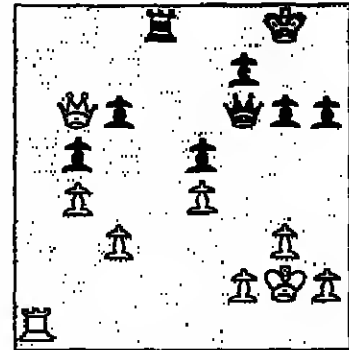
CHESS

WILLIAM HARTSTON

WITH TWO rounds left to play in the Smith & Williamson British Championship in Torquay, Matthew Sadler and Nigel Short share the lead with 7½ points from nine games, a point ahead of the rest of the field. Leading scores: Short and Sadler 7½; Sasikiran, Speelman and Thipsay 6½; Gormally, Hebden, Martin, Miles and Wells 6.

Sadler was held to a draw by Sasikiran in the ninth round, and may, towards the end, even have been relieved to escape. Short then caught him in the lead by winning against Jon Speelman. It was Speelman's worst game of the championship so far. Playing White, he settled, as usual, for a quiet opening, but after an early exchange of queens tried to create complications with an unlikely-looking pawn sacrifice. His objective appeared to be to obtain a positional advantage after winning the pawn back, but somehow he never got round to regaining it. The endgame continued until move 55, but Short always looked like winning with his extra pawn.

This was an unhappy game for Speelman, particularly after he had rekindled his hopes of winning the title with a delicately played endgame against Jonathan Rowson in the previous round.



From the diagram position, Speelman, playing White, gave a fine display of the art of making something from nothing. Play continued 1.Qe3 keeping Black's rook out of d3 or d2, and confirming that White has no advantage whatsoever! 1...h5 2.h4 Qd6 3.Qg5 Re6 4.Qe3 Rf6 5.Qg5 Re6 6.g4! Qd8 (frighten by 6...hxg4 7.h5. Black tries to simplify) 7.gxh5 Qxg5+ 8.hxg5 gxf5 9.Rc7 Re6 10.Kg3 Kg6 11.Rf8 (11...Rd6! is better, when 12.Rc7 f6 or 12.Kh4 f6 13.gxf6 Rxf6 13.gxf6 Kxf6 13.Kh4 Kg6 14.Rd7 Rf6 15.Kg3 Re6 16.Rd8 Kg7 17.Rc8 Kg6 18.Rg8+ Kh6 19.Rd8 Rg8+ (19...Rd6 20.Rd5 Rd3 may be a better try) 20.Kh4 Rd6 21.Rf5 Rd3 22.Rxh5+ Kg7 23.Rxex Rxc3 24.Kg4 Rc4 25.Re6 and White won easily.

BRIDGE

ALAN HIRON

WEST READ too much into what appeared to him to be a clear suit preference signal on this deal, and as a result, found himself caught in an end play.

East opened Three Hearts and South overcalled with Three Spades. After a pass by West, North contented himself with a simple raise to game. (There were too many gaps in his hand to consider a slam try.) West led ♠Q against Four Spades; East overtook, cashed ♠A, and continued with ♠2 to South's jack.

West considered the position. He decided that his partner's return of the two suggested that he would prefer a return in the lower ranking suit, clubs. If West ruffed with ♠K in front of dummy or discarded, declarer would throw ♠Q from dummy and East's supposed ♠K would not feature in the play. Accordingly, West ruffed with ♠5, both retaining his trump trick and killing declarer's winning ♠J. Declarer over-ruffed with dummy's ♠7 and led a trump to his ace. He continued with two rounds of clubs and another trump. On lead with ♠K, West was now

Game all: dealer East	
North	
♠ 10 7 4 2	
♥ 10 4	
♦ A 10 7 6 3	
♣ A O	
West	
♠ K 8 5	♥ none
♥ O	♦ A K 7 6 5 3
♦ K 9 8 2	♣ J 4
♣ J 9 8 5 2	♠ 10 7 6 3
South	
♠ A Q J 9 6 3	
♥ 7 8 3	
♦ Q 5	
♣ K 4	

forced to lead away from his ♠K or concede a ruff and discard. West was correct in his assumption that East had returned ♠2 to warn his partner not to open up the diamonds. West, however, should have realised that East, who had opened Three Hearts, could hardly hold ♠K as well as ♠A K. If on the third round of hearts, West either discards or ruffs with ♠K, the defence will come to a diamond trick in due course.

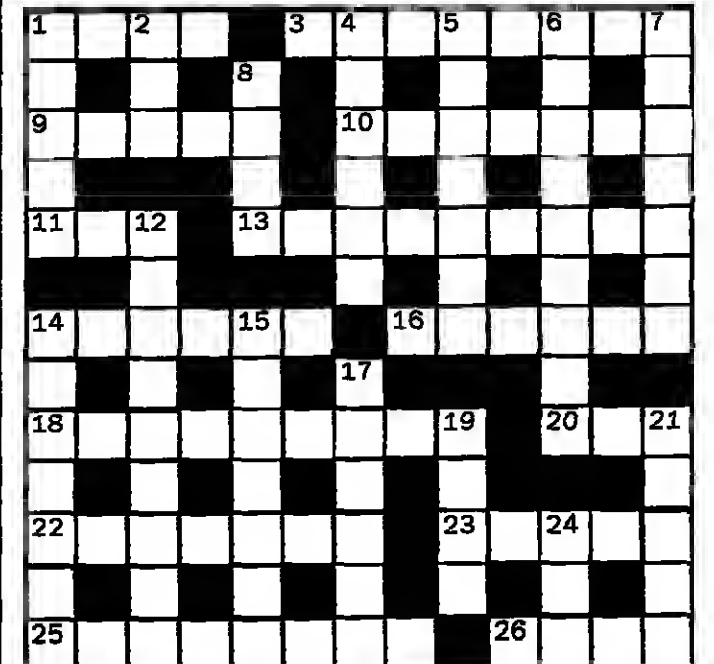
PUZZLE

ANOTHER SET of "26 L of the A" (Letters of the Alphabet) style teasers:
3 S A Y O
4 S G W G S
4 L G T L B in A F
40 P to B M in M

(Answers on Monday)
Yesterday's answer:
1) 18 items are the numbers 1,2,3 etc plus the number of letters to spell them.
2) N (first letter of "one", second letter of "two" and so on, starting each word again if you run out of letters).

CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3583 Friday 7 August



ACROSS

- Contented sound (4)
- Puts pages in order (8)
- Disseint (5)
- Organise (7)
- Make a mistake (3)
- Careless (9)
- Merchandise sent abroad (6)
- Strive for high things (6)
- Public services (9)
- Drink (3)
- Greed (7)
- Pub measure (5)
- Lasting (8)
- Skiffal (4)

DOWN

- Forces chaplain (5)
- Edge (3)
- Fruit (6)
- Trucks (7)
- Making fiddling adjustments (9)
- Royal staff (7)
- Metallic element (4)
- Teach (3)
- Prince of Monaco (7)
- Homing bird (6)
- Before long (4)
- Recess (5)
- Bath (3)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:
ACROSS: 1 Ardour, 4 To wit (Harder to hit), 8 Tiana, 9 Dictate, 10 Avocado, 11 Shut, 12 Map, 14 Edge, 15 Arch, 18 Sol, 21 Dull, 23 Outcome, 25 Banking, 26 Cream, 27 Ennui, 28 Weapon, DOWN: 1 Actual, 2 Diamond, 3 Unwarms, 4 Tact, 5 Wraith, 6 Twenty, 7 Idiot, 13 Pastiche, 16 Close-up, 19 Edible, 19 Tough, 20 Vermin, 23 Linsen, 24 H-L.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

A WEEK OF (temporarily-linked) films on famous Michael's - Messers Caine, Jagger and angel have been the unlikely bedfellows profiled so far - concludes with a profile of the Soviet reformer Mikhail Gorbachev in Biography... Call Me Michael (7pm The History Channel). Ironically, Gorbachev's attempt to reform the USSR led to its breakup and to the current fragile period under Boris Yeltsin. Meanwhile, Kevin Spacey (right)

- currently enjoying a theatrical sojourn in London with The Ice Man Cometh - stars in the satirical Swimming with Sharks (12ndn Sky Movies Screen 2). The sharks of the title are the Hollywood movers and shakers, personified by Spacey's high-powered studio executive. It's a nastier, low-budget version of The Player, assembled with feeling by director George Huang after years of doing menial jobs at Columbia. PETER CONCHIE



Kevin Spacey

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1
6.00 Miracle on 34th Street (1973) (43579668). 7.40 The Guru (1989) (4358484). 9.30 Heavyweights (1994) (2250804). 11.00 Mr Holland's Opus (1995) (6043297). 1.30 The Long Walk Home (1990) (5753842). 3.00 Heavyweights (1994) (2519465). 6.40 Mr Holland's Opus (1995) (6767552). 9.00 The Silence of the Lambs (1991) (72194). 11.00 Kissing a Dragon (1990) (66926). 12.40 Dead Presidents (1995) (675953). 2.40 First Monday in October (1991) (566224). 4.20 - 6.00 Luring Fear (1994) (67631).

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2
6.00 The Phantom of the Opera (1943) (9517). 8.00 The Cape Town Affair (1967) (93303). 10.00 The Stars Fell on Henrietta (1995) (44397). 12.00 Project: AII (1995) (10026). 2.00 The Phantom of the Opera (1943) (9517). 4.00 The Stars Fell on Henrietta (1995) (5571). 6.00 Project: AII (1995) (65378). 7.30 UK Top Ten (7604). 8.00 Stolen Women (1996) (71465). 10.00 The Long Kiss Goodnight (1996) (67627). 12.00 Swimming with Sharks (1994). See Pick of the Day (59576). 1.35 Together (1994) (574934). 3.40 - 6.00 Visitors of the Night (1993) (6542960).

SKY MOVIES GOLD
4.00 The Rockless Moment (1948) (611200). 6.00 Places in the Heart (1984) (272643). 8.00 Fight of the Intruder (1997) (272784). 10.00 Cherley Varrick (1973) (76523). 11.50 Hardware (1987) (76523). 1.35 The Hand (1981) (615934). 3.40-4.45 Bad Medicine (1985) (307408).

BRAVO
6.00 The A-Team (57661). 9.00 Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (84621). 9.30 Cops (752804). 10.00 Italian Stripping Dances (833219). 10.30 Real Shoe Dances (833219). 11.00 Famous Bravo Dances (833219). 11.30 Beverly Hills Bordello (833219). 1.30 Film: From: Tomcat Angels (271306). 3.30 Real Shoe Dances (833219). 4.00 Beverly Hills Bordello (833219). 4.30 Italian Stripping Dances (833219). 5.00 Monsters (755458). 5.30 - 6.00 Freaky Stories (468565).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
6.00 The Discovery (1975). 4.30 Top Marine 1 (70433). 5.00 First Flights (800620). 5.30 Jurassic (1989). 6.00 Wildlife SOS (198504). 6.30 Cover Story (806639). 7.30 Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious Universe (19568). 8.00 Lonely Planet

SKY 1
6.00 Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters from Beverly Hills (1020). 8.30 Street Sharks (1997). 9.00 Gelfin and Friends (6174). 9.30 The Simpsons (1989). 10.00 Games World (244637). 10.25 Games World (244637). 10.45 Just Kidding (8533). 11.00 The New Adventures of Superman (2679). 12.00 Married with Children (1993). 12.30 M*A*S*H (42358). 12.55 Special K Collection (833219). 1.00 Genie (402048). 2.00 Selly Raphael (102262). 2.25 The Special K Collection (833219). 3.00 Jenny Jones (309194). 3.55 Special K Collection (199522). 4.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (713). 5.00 Star Trek (1997). 6.00 The Nanny (765). 6.30 Married with Children (1993). 7.00 Simpsons (1989). 7.30 Simpsons (1989). 8.00 Simpsons (1989). 8.30 The Simpsons (1989). 9.00 Walker, Texas Ranger (8333). 9.30 Cops (10642). 10.30 Cops (10642). 11.00 Star Trek (1997). 12.00 Nash Bridges (46565). 1.00 - 7.00 Long Play (875034).

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00 Sports Centre (588622). 7.25

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00 Sports Centre (588622). 7.25 Sports Centre (588622). 7.50 Sports Centre (588622). 8.25 Sports Centre (588622). 8.50 Sports Centre (588622). 9.25 Sports Centre (588622). 9.50 Sports Centre (588622). 10.25 Sports Centre (588622). 10.50 Sports Centre (588622). 11.25 Sports Centre (588622). 11.50 Sports Centre (588622). 12.25 Sports Centre (588622). 12.50 Sports Centre (588622).

SKY SPORTS 3
7.00 Sports Centre (588622). 7.25 Sports Centre (588622). 7.50 Sports Centre (588622). 8.25 Sports Centre (588622). 8.50 Sports Centre (588622). 9.25 Sports Centre (588622). 9.50 Sports Centre (588622). 10.25 Sports Centre (588622). 10.50 Sports Centre (588622). 11.25 Sports Centre (588622). 11.50 Sports Centre (588622). 12.25 Sports Centre (588622). 12.50 Sports Centre (588622).

World Wrestling Federation Superstars
(83973). 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (588622). 9.20 Sky Sports Centre (588622). 9.50 Sky Sports Centre (588622). 10.20 Sky Sports Centre (588622). 10.50 Sky Sports Centre (588622). 11.20 Sky Sports Centre (588622). 11.50 Sky Sports Centre (588622). 12.20 Sky Sports Centre (588622). 12.50 Sky Sports Centre (588622).

SKY SPORTS 4
7.00 Sports Centre (588622). 7.25 Sports Centre (588622). 7.50 Sports Centre (588622). 8.25 Sports Centre (588622). 8.50 Sports Centre (588622). 9.25 Sports Centre (588622). 9.50 Sports Centre (588622). 10.25 Sports Centre (588622). 10.50 Sports Centre (588622). 11.25 Sports Centre (588622). 11.50 Sports Centre (588622). 12.25 Sports Centre (588622). 12.50 Sports Centre (588622).

SKY SPORTS 5
7.00 Sports Centre (588622). 7.25 Sports Centre (588622). 7.50 Sports Centre (588622). 8.25 Sports Centre (588622). 8.50 Sports Centre (588622). 9.25 Sports Centre (588622). 9.50 Sports Centre (588622). 10.25 Sports Centre (588622). 10.50 Sports Centre (588622). 11.25 Sports Centre (588622). 11.50 Sports Centre (588622). 12.25 Sports Centre (588622). 12.50 Sports Centre (588622).

EUROSPORT
7.30 Sailing Magazine (7/30). 8.00 Synchronised Swimming (8/25). 9.00 Football v Inter Milan (6/29). 10.00 Football: World Cup Legends (8/40). 12.45 International Motorsports Magazine (8/40). 1.30 Basketball (8/25). 2.45 Tennis (8/40). 3.45 Football (8/25). 4.45 Football (8/25). 5.45 Football (8/25). 6.45 Football (8/25). 7.45 Football (8/25). 8.45 Football (8/25). 9.45 Football (8/25). 10.45 Football (8/25). 11.45 Football (8/25). 12.45 Football (8/25).

UK GOLD
7.00 Newsround (8/40). 7.30 Newsround (8/40). 8.00 Newsround (8/40). 8.30 Newsround (8/40). 9.00 Newsround (8/40). 9.30 Newsround (8/40). 10.00 Newsround (8/40). 10.30 Newsround (8/40). 11.00 Newsround (8/40). 11.30 Newsround (8/40). 12.00 Newsround (8/40).

WESTCOUNTRY
As Carlton except 10.30 Film: Home is Where the Hart Is (8/40). 1.00 On Foot (8/25). 2.45 Westcountry Update (8/25). 3.20 Westcountry News (8/25). 4.00 News: Weekend Weather (8/25). 4.30 Westcountry News (8/25). 5.00 The View from Here (8/25). 11.45 Renegade (7/30). 1.35 ClubVision (8/15). 2.45 The View of the World (8/15). 4.45 The View of the World (8/15). 5.00 The View of the World (8/15). 5.30 The View of the World (8/15). 6.00 The View of the World (8/15). 6.30 The View of the World (8/15). 7.00 The View of the World (8/15). 7.30 The View of the World (8/15). 8.00 The View of the World (8/15). 8.30 The View of the World (8/15). 9.00 The View of the World (8/15). 9.30 The View of the World (8/15). 10.00 The View of the World (8/15). 10.30 The View of the World (8/15). 11.00 The View of the World (8/15). 11.30 The View of the World (8/15). 12.00 The View of the World (8/15).

YORKSHIRE
As Carlton except 10.30 Film: Emmerdale (8/40). 2.45 Quayside (8/25). 3.30 Calendar News and Weather (8/25). 5.40 News.

REGIONAL TELEVISION

BBC
10.50 Ireland As BBC1 London except 10.50 Dublin Home Show 11.30 (Hearts) 12.00 Film: Blue Ice 1.00 - 7.00 Joins BBC News 24
SCOTLAND As BBC1 London except 10.30 - 1.00 Golf McDonald's WPGA Championship of Europe 6.00 News 6.30 - 7.00 Regional News 7.00 Weather 7.30 - 8.00 Crime Beat 10.30 - 10.50 One Foot in the Grave
WALES As BBC1 London except 6.30 Regional News 6.35-7.00 Wales Today
ANGLIA As Carlton except 9.25 The Jerry Springer Show (8/20484). 10.25 Justice of the Land (5/5991). 11.25 Blue Healers (8/31203). 12.20 Anglia News and Weather (8/20378). 1.00 Dinosaurs (8/216). 1.30 Twigg's People (8/226). 2.45 2.00 Lunch in the Sun (8/226). 3.20 Cravens' Collectables (8/226). 5.40 5.10 Shortland Street (8/0571). 5.40 News: Weather (4/5656). 6.00 Anglia Catchphrase (8/226). 6.00 ITN News (7/226). 10.00 ITN News (7/226). 10.30 Anglia News and Weather (8/226). 11.00 Heroes and Villains Extra (8/552). 11.00 Heroes and Villains Extra (8/552). 12.00 Public Morals (8/7205).



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

TELEVISION REVIEW

WHICH WOULD YOU imagine to be less stressful - a war zone or a house full of difficult teenagers? For a seasoned war reporter, I don't think this would need much thinking about - in a war zone there are relatively simple and the hazards are, within reason, calculable. But at least reason has some purchase on the situation, which can't always be guaranteed with teenagers. And if you add to the unpredictable antics of puberty a brainwashing pack as cryptic as Afghanistan, linguistic and educational difficulties and a crippling disability you get some idea of the task that journalist Nick Darwent took on when he filmed three children from Kabul and adopted them as his own. Even then, you won't believe the lengths to which he'll go to get his message across. He'll show you the children's faces, but not their names, though, because while Darwent's exposure to have some amazing contacts the children by or from Pakistan to Dubai, he also needs to earn a living and his profession isn't exactly consistent with a stable domestic life.

I don't think you could really question Darwent's motives here. The three children he adopted were the only ones who hadn't found homes when an orphanage he had set up in Taliban-occupied Kabul was closed down by Taliban guerrillas, so you could see that a limited and practical act of compassion had been motivated by a romantic and impractical one. All the same, *Three Stories* (CB) is the first year with the most beautiful family effectively amounted to a tribute on his judgment. "I hope he's up to know whether he is, I'm not worried about him. I'm worried about the children and what he's going to make of them." At times the verdict is in doubt. If you have to introduce your adopted Afghan children to their British grandmother, it isn't immediately obvious that having them leap out from the garage without warning is the best way to do it. The camera stays on the mother's face as she looks at the children in a way that is almost unbearably tender. But whatever feelings they have for their new family, they have to live with the fact that they have been adopted. Since their adoption, they have been living in a world where they are not welcome to be anything. What's more, unlike most of the other children, they are not orphans. They are the children of a man who was a soldier in the British army and who was killed in action. They are the children of a man who was a soldier in the British army and who was killed in action. They are the children of a man who was a soldier in the British army and who was killed in action.

BBC1

- 6.00 **Business Breakfast** (25/27) 7.00 **News** (7) (98533) (98575) 10.05 **Easy Money** (5) (459323) 10.30 **Good Neighbours** (5) (954278) 10.40 **News: Regional News** (5) (970055)
- 10.40 **Cricket - Fifth Test: England vs South Africa** (24/3842). The second morning's play from Headingley (5)
- 1.00 **News: Weather** (7) (98523) 1.30 **Regional News: Weather** (45/3945) 1.40 **Neighbours** (5) (270303)
- 2.05 **Reading from Aesop**. Cleo Belling and Willie Carson introduce the 230, 305 and 335 races (5) (55313)
- 3.05 **Children's BBC**. **Rugby** (36/229) 4.20 **On Your Mark** (5) (985804) 4.35 **The Week** (5) (7) (355523) 5.00 **Newsround** (5) (7) (230254) 5.40 **The Biz** (5) (7) (723378)
- 5.35 **Neighbours** (5) (7) (876074)
- 6.00 **News: Weather** (7) (794)
- 6.30 **Regional News**. And weather (7) (974)
- 7.00 **Celebrity Ready, Steady, Cook**. Stars of *The Bill*, *Travis*, *Goodwin* and *Elio* Richards, are the chefs getting ready, ready to cook (5) (7) (7218)
- 7.30 **Top of the Pops**. Apollo 440, Lord Ace of Bass, Brandy, Baby Bump and - at number one - The Spice Girls are the week's selected characters (5) (7) (94042)
- 7.55 **Fewell Towers**. The hotel is a special wedding venue, and Basil decides to defend the standards of morality in another of these classic repeats (5) (27007)
- 8.30 **Driving School**. Maureen has taken her sixth driving test, but her instructor has an idea to increase Maureen's chances. Repeat (5) (5) (7) (227)
- 9.00 **News: Regional News: Weather** (7) (5533)
- 9.30 **Hefty Weather: Investigates**. Keith Barron, guest editor with Patricia Routledge, private detective. Tonight she is called to mediate when a local councillor's mother refuses to leave her flat, which is earmarked for demolition (5) (7) (98553)
- 10.30 **Chiff**. As talk of divorce looms, Larry Henry's temperamental super-chef is forced to mingle and entertain the dinner (5) (7) (54738)
- 10.50 **Neighbours**. Another chance to see the third episode, and it isn't getting any better (5) (7) (233820)
- 11.20 **Blue Ice** (Russell Mulcahy 1992 US). Michael Caruso's former intelligence officer turned jazz club owner is lured into the underworld by a woman who is his wife's back of the car. Del 1 for *Neighbours* (5) (98589)
- 1.00 **Ellen**. **Dragstrip**. On Mary Lambert 1994 US. Love across the tracks in Filles LA as a Latino car thief falls for an up-and-coming Catholic schoolgirl (5) (7) (773872)
- 2.20 **Johns 666 News** 24 (934079). To 200m.

BBC2

- 6.00 **The Effective Manager** (7/5052). 6.30 **Open Advice** (90589)
- 7.00 **Children's 6:00**. **Open a Door** (5) (953345) 7.05 **Children's 6:00**. **Open a Door** (5) (953345) 7.10 **Children's 6:00**. **Open a Door** (5) (953345) 7.15 **Children's 6:00**. **Open a Door** (5) (953345) 7.20 **Children's 6:00**. **Open a Door** (5) (953345) 7.25 **Children's 6:00**. **Open a Door** (5) (953345) 7.30 **Children's 6:00**. **Open a Door** (5) (953345) 7.35 **Children's 6:00**. **Open a Door** (5) (953345) 7.40 **Children's 6:00**. **Open a Door** (5) (953345) 7.45 **Children's 6:00**. **Open a Door** (5) (953345) 7.50 **Children's 6:00**. **Open a Door** (5) (953345) 7.55 **Children's 6:00**. **Open a Door** (5) (953345) 8.00 **Children's 6:00**. **Open a Door** (5) (953345) 8.05 **Children's 6:00**. **Open a Door** (5) (953345) 8.10 **Children's 6:00**. **Open a Door** (5) (953345) 8.15 **Children's 6:00**. **Open a Door** (5) (953345) 8.20 **Children's 6:00**. **Open a Door** (5) (953345) 8.25 **Children's 6:00**. **Open a Door** (5) (953345) 8.30 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